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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Pock-marked

New photos from Mercury show the tiny inner planet has pretty impressive craters.

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Shark Tale

A Texas fisherman lands the catch of a lifetime—an 8-foot shark—without trying.

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Purr-fect

A gray-and-white tabby has catapulted to fame with his extra-loud purring.

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Man arrested for sex abuse of minor. **PAGE 3**
US economy outpaces rivals even as job growth lags. **PAGE 22**

DUE TO JAPAN QUAKE, TSUNAMI

2,640 Japanese cancelled trips to NMI

» **MVA projects \$6M direct negative impact to economy**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Over 2,600 tourists from Japan have cancelled their vacations to the CNMI since March 11, when a 9.0 earthquake and tsunami hit that country, according to a report by the Marianas Visitors Authority's office in Japan.

The projected loss to the Commonwealth's economy is estimated at \$6 million, said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio yesterday.

These cancellations cover the 180-day booking, which is from March 11 to the

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'FY2012 budget plan factors in \$5M loss from Japan disasters'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the CNMI government is estimating at least \$5 million in losses to the economy resulting from the Japan quake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis, which are taken into account in the administration's submission today of

a \$120 million budget for fiscal year 2012 to the Legislature.

But Inos pointed out that the \$120 million package could still change, and that the \$5 million estimate loss is a conservative figure.

"I'm sure there's more [losses] because of the multiplier effect," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We need to pin down

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LIBRARY MONTH

Students, teachers, and education officials gather yesterday during the proclamation signing of April as CNMI-PSS School Library Month.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

See story on Page 4

OAG ready to cooperate if Japan probes Ichikawa drowning

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Both Civil and Criminal divisions of the Office of the Attorney General are ready and

willing to cooperate in any way they can with Japanese officials if asked regarding the investigation into the drowning of Kiyohisa Ichikawa at Obyan Beach on Saipan in 2006.

Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest

told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday in an e-mail that if Japanese officials have credible information of a possible murder committed within the CNMI, he would expect them to be forthcoming with the information.

Since his tenure with the OAG's Criminal Division in late June 2010, Ernest said he is not aware of any inquiries made by consular officials or Japanese investigators regarding

See OAG on Page 4



Ernest

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Local

Elected AG initiative recalled due to salary discrepancy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives recalled from the Senate an initiative on an elected attorney general to address the

differences in the proposed salary, whether \$80,000 or \$150,000 a year.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), author of House Legislative Initiative 17-2, said yesterday that his initiative that the

House passed last year called for an annual salary of \$150,000 for an elected AG.

But he said when HLI 17-2 was transmitted to the Senate for action, the salary figures were changed to \$80,000 a year.

The Senate passed the transmitted initiative with an \$80,000 annual salary for an elected AG.

Dela Cruz discussed the matter with the Senate, which told him that senators will not agree to a \$150,000 annual salary.

Rather than having the initiative killed by the Senate after the House changes the figure back to \$150,000, Dela Cruz said he'd rather have the salary at \$80,000 to guarantee Senate passage.

"The more important thing

here is to amend the Constitution to allow an elected attorney general. We can always change the salary later on," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

There's no telling whether the recalled initiative will pass the House again. Dela Cruz is hoping his colleagues will agree with him.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said he supports having an independent and elected AG, but said the position should pay well.

As of yesterday afternoon, the

Senate had yet to transmit the recalled initiative to the House. Among other things, the Senate has to meet first to approve the House request.

If and when the recalled and amended initiative pass the House and Senate, voters could decide on whether or not to elect an AG in the next midterm elections in 2012.

Under Dela Cruz's HLI 17-2, the elected AG would have a term of four years and cannot serve for more than two terms.

Flores launches 'Letters of Hope' campaign for Japan

Relief efforts to help the victims of the devastation in Japan, the Saipan Mayor's Office has launched the "Kibo No Tegami - Letters of Hope" campaign in schools and the rest of the community.

"Kibo No Tegami - Letters of Hope" encourages the public to write letters expressing support, encouragement and hope to families in Japan that have been affected by the devastating tsunami and earthquake.

Mayor Donald G. Flores, in

a letter to all public school principals, noted the importance of providing help to Japan in ways other than fundraising.

According to Flores, touching the lives of Japan families through these "Kibo No Tegami - Letters of Hope" is one way to amplify the true spirit of their close ties with the CNMI.

"Let's reach out and let them know that we, the people of Saipan, have them in our daily thoughts and prayers; that we are sending our love, support

and encouragement. [Through] these difficult times, we pray that they stay strong and rise above the challenges of recovery," he said.

Flores also maintained that the relief efforts will enable a speedier recovery for Japan.

All letter, which may or may not include return addresses, can be dropped off or picked up by the Saipan Mayor's Office no later than Tuesday, April 12.

Flores said postage is not necessary for the letters since the Mayor's Office will place them in boxes and will be endorsed to the Japan American Red Cross.

For more information, contact executive secretary Vynicia Seman at 234-6208. (Clarissa V. David)

Benavente calls on the public to air concern on lifting of net fishing ban

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) called on members of the public to air their concern on a bill seeking to lift the net fishing ban on Saipan, a proposal that could be acted at the House session this morning.

The House session is set for 10am on Capital Hill.

Benavente said he was surprised to see that House Bill 17-36 was placed yesterday on the bill calendar without the House Natural Resources Committee convening another meeting to decide on a recommendation based on a meeting with stakeholders days back.

In that committee meeting, Benavente said, the panel heard uniform opposition to allowing net fishing on Saipan again. Among those who spoke out were the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

"I am encouraging those same individuals who attended the meeting to again express their concern about the bill during the public comment period at the House session," Benavente said.

He said House members also need to hear directly from the public about their opposition to the bill, before lawmakers vote on it.

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Man arrested for sex abuse of minor

Police arrested Wednesday a 23-year-old man who allegedly had sex with his 14-year-old girlfriend at his house in As Teo.

Frank Kaneshi was arrested for sex abuse of a minor in the second degree and sex abuse of a minor in the third degree. Bail was initially set at \$100,000 cash but Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona reduced it to \$40,000 cash during yesterday's hearing. Bail conditions include a daily curfew.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 7 at 9am.

Detective Vincent S. Mareham stated in his report that two police officers had responded Tuesday afternoon to a disturbing the peace complaint at a house in Koblerville. The parents met the officers and told their daughter to tell the police about what happened.

The girl told officers that Kaneshi had picked her up from school and they went to his

house, after which he brought her back to school. Since her ride had already left, the girl walked home. At home, the girl's father questioned her about her whereabouts.

That same day, the girl was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was examined.

The girl told police that she and Kaneshi had sex four times.

9 schools compete in Parade of Books

Eight elementary schools on Saipan and one on Tinian will compete in the 7th Annual Parade of Books at 2pm tomorrow at the Marianas High School gymnasium.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Saipan, Parade of Books is an annual literacy program that features schools competing for cash prizes by interpreting their favorite book through a creative performance.

Participating schools are Garapan Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Gregorio T.

At yesterday's court appearance, Kaneshi's counsel, assistant public defender Richard Miller, objected to chief prosecutor Michael Ernest's recommendation to have police officers routinely check on the suspect at his house.

Manglona eventually authorized the routine check since Kaneshi has a curfew. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Camacho Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Tinian Elementary School, Green Meadows School, Dandan Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, and Golden Harvest International School.

Vocational services director Jeff Boyer, who is also this year's Parade of Books coordinator, said that some of the schools have dropped out from the competition due to other activities and commitments.

Boyer said a \$1,000 cash prize is at stake for the school with the most creative interpretation. Second place will get \$750; third, \$500; fourth, \$300; fifth, \$200; and \$100 for participation prizes.

Boyer said they will also give 30 Pacific Islands Club water park passes to the school that wins the Best in Spirit Award. The winner for the Best Director will receive one night stay at PIC. (*Clarissa David*)

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BOE proclaims April NMI's school library month

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education endorsed April as the CNMI Public School System's school library month—the first proclaimed in the Commonwealth—during a ceremony yesterday at the system's central office.

Education Board chair Marylou Ada and member Herman Guerrero led the proclamation signing, witnessed by acting education commissioner Lynnette Villagomez, students, school librarians, administrators, as well as staff and teachers.

Tinian and Rota schools also partici-

pated in the ceremony through video-conference.

With this year's theme "Create Your Own Story," schools on three islands have lined up activities and programs for the monthlong celebration that aims to promote reading.

"School libraries play a vital role in supporting the quality of life in our school and within our communities. These are places where we discover a world of knowledge through books, archives, manuscripts, and a wealth of other media. This celebration will provide an opportunity for NMI PSS to increase awareness of the role of school libraries and librarians in our schools,

on our islands, and in our communities," the proclamation reads.

Among the activities and programs throughout the month include Reading Frenzy, Young Authors' Fair, Read-A-Thon, Read-Aloud, Reading Carnival, bookmark-making contest, reading competitions, and reading with the stars, among others.

In some schools such as Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, community members will have free access to its library this month. The school will also host programs such as library trivia, bookmark making day, movie night, reading recipes, and library fun night.

Patsylynn Jetley, an 11th grader from

Kagman High School, said that "reading is like traveling the world without moving an inch."

"Not only are books able to encourage, teach, and inspire...but by reading your favorite books it will boost your reading level. I am glad that KHS, like every school on island, has an expanding environment of readers," she said, adding that the celebration is also meant to honor school librarians like KHS' Gina Sambilay.

Contests winners

The Education Board also recognized

Man nabbed for cultivating pot

Police arrested on Tuesday a man who allegedly cultivated marijuana plants at his house in Dandan.

Joseph Leon Guerrero Villagomez, 48, was arrested for illegal possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of controlled substance.

A \$5,000 cash bail was initially imposed for Villagomez's temporary liberty. During Wednesday afternoon's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos allowed the defendant to post \$500 cash bail.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force Detective Sean White stated in his report that on Monday at 3pm, Detective Roque Camacho received information from a concerned citizen

yesterday the winners of the essay and poster-making competitions.

For elementary division, winners in the poster making competition included Dante Kaipat, Norbert Ambalan, and Anneli Arcega. For the essay contest, winners were Ha'ane Eugenio, Alyssa Attao, and Devina Atalig.

In the high school division, the poster-making contest was ruled by Alexis Hofschneider, Herolyn Selepeo, and Nicklas Iglecias. For essay, winners were Alyssa Arangorin, Elloise Lotoc, and Angelin Sahagan.

that Villagomez has been cultivating marijuana at his residence.

White said that on Tuesday afternoon, Camacho and another detective proceeded to Villagomez's house to talk to him about the information.

White said nobody was at the house at the time. As the detectives were leaving, they saw about 20 marijuana plants ranging from one foot to five feet high being cultivated inside a tin fenced area with chain linked fence around it.

After obtaining an arrest warrant and search warrant from the court, detectives then picked up Villagomez and seized the marijuana plants at his house. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

OAG

From Page 1

Ichikawa's case.

He promised to check if inquiries were made prior to his term.

The 22-year-old Ichikawa drowned at Obyan Beach on June 27, 2006. He had two companions when the incident happened. Department of Public Safety investigators had concluded that Ichikawa died of drowning and the case was then closed.

The Gifu District Court in Japan last week had determined that Ichikawa was possibly murdered in order for his two traveling companions to collect 100 million in insurance.

Ichikawa's body was never autopsied and was cremated upon arrival in Japan, hampering the Japanese police's investigation into his death.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* for comments about the development of the case in Japan, Ernest said that Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has given him no instructions to revisit their policies in light of this incident.

"I do know that he expects his Criminal Division, and all its employees, to act professionally and prudently in all our duties," Ernest said.

As part of the Commonwealth's law enforcement team, Ernest said he reads death reports, looking for signs that point toward the need for further investigation.

"I am aware of our responsibility to the living and the dead to investigate and prosecute criminal acts," he said.

Ernest said the decision to request an autopsy is made on a case-by-case basis.

Their decision, he said, relies on the investigations performed by the first responders (firefighters, police officers, and medics) and the medical establishment.

"We trust the investigation provides, to the extent known, all relevant information concerning the discovery of the body, the manner of death, any observable physical evidence, the identity and age of the deceased, and anything else that may assist in the decision," he said.

Ernest said case-by-case decisions are made, but the OAG will likely re-

quest an autopsy in the following circumstances:

■ The death appears to have been caused by criminal acts due to the presence and nature of observable physical injuries, or statements of people providing credible information about the cause of death.

■ When circumstances revealed during the investigation of an unexplained death lead to a reasonable belief that a crime was committed, and that an autopsy was required to determine the cause of death.

■ The deceased is a person in the custody of a governmental agency and the death is not the result of a known previously existing physical illness/injury or other condition where death is a foreseeable result.

■ The death is unexplained and is not the result of a known previously existing physical illness/injury or other condition where death is a foreseeable result.

■ The circumstances under which the death appears to have occurred lead to a reasonable belief that an autopsy will reveal the presence of a threat to the health of another person or persons.

BUDGET

From Page 1

the numbers from [Marianas Visitors Authority]. The only thing that's going to negatively affect that would be the Japan situation."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Inos reset for today the governor's council meeting that was supposed to be held yesterday afternoon, because the Office of Management and Budget was still working on the budget package yesterday.

The budget submission needs to be presented first to the four mayors and the executive assistant for Carolinian affairs.

If the governor fails to meet the deadline of April 1 to submit a budget, the governor's salary will be suspended until he complies with required submission.

Among other things, the budget plan contains austerity measures that include work hour cuts and removal of some 300 fulltime employee positions, press secretary Angel Demapan said.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, who will be in the governor's council meeting, said he expects Rota to get less than their proposed \$6.2 million budget for 2012, the same level they got in 2011.

"Even at \$6.2 million, we're crying. But we can't really fight when there's really no money. For example, if you have only \$5 in your wallet, you have

to live within that amount," Mendiola said on Capital Hill.

As of yesterday, Mendiola said he doesn't know how much will be given to Rota.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said the committee is awaiting the governor's budget submission.

Barring unforeseen events, he said his committee will try to have the House pass a budget bill in two months.

The Legislature has five months to pass a budget by Sept. 31, or the government will temporarily shut down again just like last year.

Amending tour incentive law

Inos said the Fitial administration has called on the Legislature to amend the law that provides incentives to travel agents for bringing in tourists from the Japanese cities of Osaka and Nagoya during low-seasons, in order to include Korea as a target market.

This way, Japan will be given time to recover from the March 11 disaster and at the same time entice tourists from other markets to visit the CNMI.

"We need to take a look at how we're going to backfill it from the other markets. We will have to amend that [law]. We informed them [Legislature] that we're working on something right now... Maybe not amend it to remove Japan, but to include other markets like Korea," Inos said.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), author of the Japan Stabi-

lization Fund bill, said the government will still continue to hold Japan as the CNMI's number one market.

"Yet I agree with the administration that we should give the people of Japan time to recover, while we continue to assist in relief efforts from our end. As for temporarily turning our focus to the Korean market, I see no problem with that. The incentive plan is based on actual tourists that land in the CNMI regardless of where they're from. If the tour agents in Korea are willing to participate, then I believe that could be profitable for the CNMI," he said.

Inos said since the incentive program is a self-funding mechanism, the incentives to tour agents will not kick in if tourists don't come to the CNMI under the program. The monetary incentive will come from 20 percent of the hotel occupancy tax, not to exceed \$6.2 million.

The administration said most of the tourism cancellations "have worked themselves out of the system by now" and it does "not anticipate significant further cancellations moving forward unless any new nuclear-related developments arise."

Inos reiterated yesterday that the real concern is April, when there is almost no tourism activity.

Demapan earlier described expected April figures to be "excruciatingly dismal," though the administration and MVA hope to start seeing recovery toward the end of April and into the month of May.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

end of June this year.

The cancelled trips from Japan also represent a big loss to the CNMI's hotel industry, estimated at \$4,400 per room every night, based on two persons for each hotel room.

Tenorio said this negative impact is also expected to ripple into private and public sector employment.

MVA projections indicate that for every 85 Japanese tourists on island, one employment opportunity is created in the public sector. In the private sector, one job opportunity is created for every 95 Japanese tourists.

"We anticipate that with the 2,640 cancellations, this means a negative impact of 28 employments in the public sector and 31 employment in the private sector," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

In direct economic impact to the tourism industry, hotel revenue loss is estimated at \$488,000, and \$1.8 million for on-island expenditures, Tenorio said.

"As far as total economic impact, we believe these 2,640 people would have generated \$6 million in economic activity for the CNMI," he added.

The 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami hit Japan on March 11, triggering a nuclear radiation crisis.

Tenorio said that Japan remains the Commonwealth's main tourism market, but due to these disasters, MVA will give the market time to "recover and refocus" from the tragedy.

He said Japan needs to heal, refocus, and rebuild itself and MVA, at this time, will focus on other source countries to continue get air seats it needs.

The MVA official said that some of the agency's programs and activities will be delayed and rescheduled.

"MVA programs that were impacted were delayed but not necessarily can-

celed. Instead of doing them this month for example, we move them in another month but we will continue," said Tenorio.

Concerns from other travelers

The crises in Japan have also provoked concerns from the CNMI's other markets, particularly China, Tenorio said.

"There were initial concerns from other markets such as China...because of the possible radiation impact [from Japan]. But we were able to arrest that and share with them that the CNMI is safe and radiation-free," said Tenorio.

Due to limited resources, Tenorio admits that it is very difficult for the MVA to react as quickly to the Japan situation in terms of replacing the lost air seats.

'Zero fund from Japan Stabilization program'

Tenorio said the MVA supports amending the law that created the Japan Stabilization Program, which would have provided cash incentives to travel agents who bring Japanese tourists from Osaka and Nagoya to the CNMI. The law allocates up to \$6.2 million in incentives.

Plans are afoot to re-allocate a portion of this funding to other markets to offset the losses from Japan.

Tenorio emphasized, however, that even the idea of "transferring" or using a portion of the funding to promote the CNMI in other destinations would not happen if the money is not available.

"I think we need to be clear here. That public law allows MVA to generate up to \$6.2 million to be used for the incentive program...and the key word is allowing. But at this time, there's zero money in that account," he explained.

Part of the Fitial administration's efforts to boost tourism while Japan is rebuilding itself is to encourage more flights and air seats from its second biggest market, Korea.

NMC to confer about 160 degrees, diplomas this spring semester '11

The Northern Marianas College will confer about 119 associate and bachelor degrees and about 41 certificates this spring semester, including potential graduates from the institution's Adult Basic Education program.

NMC's 31st commencement ceremony will be held on May 21 at the Marianas High School gymnasium and is open to the public.

Preliminary figures from the college indicated that the 119 degrees will be conferred on some 106 students, as 11 students are pursuing double majors and one student is enrolled with triple majors.

NMC said that final numbers will be determined by middle of next month when grades for the current semester are submitted.

The associate degree in liberal arts has the highest potential graduates this semester, totaling to 54, followed by bachelor

of science in elementary education, with 14 potential graduates. The associate degree in nursing comes next, with 12.


Business administration with accounting emphasis has 10; business administration with business management emphasis, 10; criminal justice, six; hospitality management, two; natural resource management, one; and associate degree in business, six.

NMC's Adult Basic Education program will also be graduating about 41 students.

A graduation planning committee is now planning all activities associated with the graduation, including logistics, program, site preparation, etc.

In a statement yesterday, the college said that members of the graduating class have begun meeting to identify and recommend a keynote speaker as well as the theme for the upcoming graduation. *(Moneth Deposa)*


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LibDay Queen search begins

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The search is on for the next Liberation Day Queen.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is now accepting applications for this year's Queen search.

Vinicia Seman, executive secretary at the Saipan Mayor's Office, chairs the Queen Committee for the 2011 Liberation Day festivities.

The Liberation Day Royal Court activities are traditionally

part of the annual Liberation Day monthlong celebration.

The Liberation Day Queen competition is open to young and beautiful ladies of different ethnic backgrounds.

Candidates must be aged 15 to 21 years old, single and never married or not engaged in a cohabiting relationship, have no children, with good moral character, and in good health.

Seman said that there will be a change in the policy of reimbursing raffle ticket sales.

Candidates raise funds by selling raffle tickets, 20 percent of which are given back to respective candidates.

According to Seman, the committee has decided to require a minimum amount of raffle ticket sales before the candidates can receive their reimbursement.

Application forms are now available at their San Antonio office, said Seman.

For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208.

Group organizes presentation on federal minimum wage law

The United Workers Movement-NMI is organizing a presentation focusing on the Fair Labor Standards Act, in order to build a good working rela-

tionship between workers and their employers.

UWM-NMI president Rabby Syed said yesterday that Dean Tenorio and Dan Wang of the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division will conduct the presentation tomorrow, Saturday, from 5pm to 7pm, at the American Memorial Park Theater.

Syed said Tenorio and Wang will discuss important topics such as exemptions from the minimum wage, overtime pay, work hours, and deductions.

He said the U.S. Labor officials will also talk about laws governing farmers and house workers.

Syed said they asked U.S.

Labor to hold the educational awareness meeting because of confusions and a lot of questions from alien workers and employers about federal labor laws after the federalization law took effect.

He said this is also a chance to show that their organization is not only good at holding rallies and gatherings to press for improved immigration status for long-term nonresident workers and those with immediate relative status.

Syed said the presentation is open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis due to the theater's limited capacity.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

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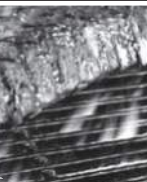
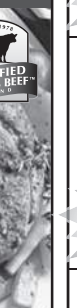


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- 4th Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate at Capricciosa.
- 5th Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate at Truong's Vietnamese restaurant.



Fitial

Fewer lawmakers, unicameral Legislature backed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing cost-efficiency and a reduced population, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is not only supporting a legislative initiative to cut the number of lawmakers, but also likes the idea of going back to a

unicameral Legislature.

There are 29 lawmakers: 20 at the House of Representatives and nine at the Senate.

At the House, 18 are from Saipan, one from Rota and one from Tinian. Of the nine senators, three are from each island.

"I'm in favor of reducing

the number of representatives to cut costs and to the extent that the Covenant be amended to make it a unicameral Legislature rather than a bicameral," Fitial said in an interview yesterday.

He said the Northern Marianas used to have a unicameral Legislature prior to it becoming a commonwealth. Its neighbor Guam also has a unicameral Legislature.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced a bill reducing to half the number of Saipan House members from 18 to nine.

But the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations has yet to schedule a public hearing on the initiative.

Fitial, who attended the National Governors Association Meeting in Washington, D.C. in February said a number of much bigger states with over a billion budget not only have a bicameral legislature but also a part-time legislature.

Compared to other states and territories, the CNMI has a projected \$120 million budget for fiscal year 2012 and a 2011 budget of \$132 million. The CNMI not only has a full-time Legislature but a bicameral Legislature as well.

"I think we should emulate those states that are thriving in their economy, having less representation in the Legislature," Fitial added.

Palacios's House Legislative Initiative 17-4 seeks to amend Article II, Section 4 subsections (a), (b) and (c) of the CNMI Constitution, to reduce the number of representatives in the House from Saipan.

Palacios said reducing the size of the House would also result in savings in excess of \$1 million annually.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 1, 1999

For Finance, more task, same funding

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday ruled out additional funding for the operations of the Department of Finance in light of the transfer of business licensing function to the agency. A law recently signed by the governor puts the authority of business permitting to DOF, a function previously held by the Department of Commerce. Although the measure would simplify the business licensing process while ensuring that establishments seeking renewals pay their taxes, it puts additional workload to the finance department.

Fishing holds revenue potential for CNMI

The CNMI should begin developing its potential in the fishing business to serve the huge local market on the island just like Hawaii, as an alternative source of revenue, according to James D. Cook, chairman of Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Cook said the CNMI can also serve as transshipment point for long line vessels with its modern airport and seaport facilities. "It may take a while to develop, but it will happen because the CNMI already has a ready market with its huge tourism industry," he added. With only 40 longliners in 1986, Hawaii now has 125 longliners with a \$100 million fishing business. The island's major domestic fishery resources is the troll fishery for skipjack, yellowfin, wahoo, mahi mahi and billfish.

April 1, 2002

NMI eyes 'silver club' market

To encourage the entry of what he calls Japan's "silver club" market, Rep. Stanley S. Torres has introduced a measure that would make it easier for Japanese retirees to enter and stay in the CNMI. House Bill 13-27 would specifically amend a section of the Commonwealth Code to establish a specific nonimmigrant entry permit category that would be somewhat comparable to the multiple-entry visa permit being issued by the U.S. government to selected tourists. Torres said there is an urgent need to spur economic development and provide incentives for foreign investment in the Commonwealth and this proposed measure, also known as the "Foreign Retiree Entry Permit Act," could be the key.

DOLI sues employers for nonpayment of wages

The Division of Labor is petitioning the court to order three employers to comply with a two-year-old administrative order directing them to pay unpaid wages to two former employees. Assistant Attorney General Andrew Clayton, in a civil suit filed at the Superior Court last week, is seeking to enforce the division's administrative order against Christopher A. Castro, Dionne A. Castro and Margarita A. Castro. The defendants reportedly operate several businesses as sole proprietorships. According to court documents, the Castros owe former employees Marilyn Aquino and Emelyn F. Cabico unpaid wages in the amount of \$9,022 and \$5,342, respectively.

April 1, 2003

IGIA activation under review

U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary David B. Cohen has affirmed that the concept to activate an Inter-agency Group on Insular Areas is "under review at high levels in the Executive Branch." The ranking DOI official relayed the message to House U.S. and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. William S. Torres, who had earlier asked Cohen for help in resurrecting the IGIA. The IGIA was established by former President Bill Clinton to guide U.S. insular areas and territories on federal policies and programs. "I am happy to report that the concept of an IGIA has been the subject of extensive discussion in the Department of the Interior," Cohen told Torres in a March 13 letter.

Lawyers render \$50K-worth of free legal services

Some 20 CNMI attorneys have devoted some \$50,000-worth of free legal services the past year, according to a report by the CNMI Bar Association. The association's Continuing Legal Education Committee said 80 percent of the bar membership or over 100 lawyers timely reported their compliance with the mandatory rule to take 10 credit hours of continuing legal education annually. In lieu of CLE, the rules allow attorneys to provide pro bono work on family and criminal cases. "Attorneys receive one hour of credit for every four hours provided to a client up to a maximum of five credit hours," explained committee chair Timothy MB Farrell, saying that 20 attorneys availed of this. The number represents about 10 percent of the bar membership.

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!



Registration Information:

Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – I3 Fisherman Pavilion

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Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field



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Special thanks to the different landowners, volunteers, supporters, fans and general public for their kind understanding and patience in the staging of these successful events. Since we already started planning for next year's Saipan Sportsfest, we would like to kindly solicit the continuing support and cooperation of those above and the general public.

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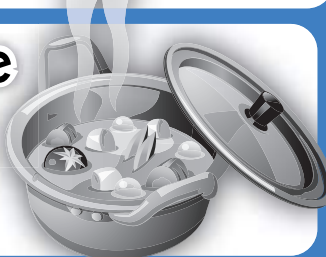
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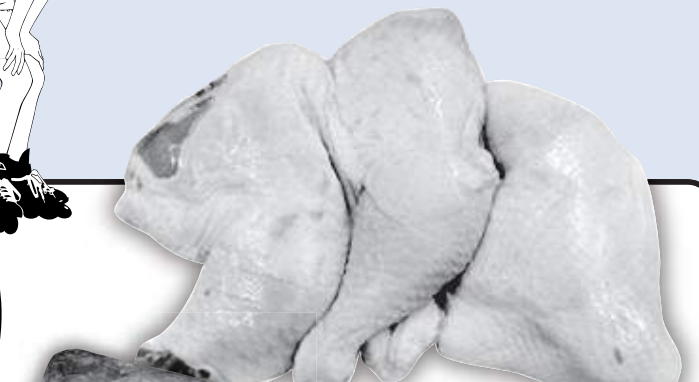
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

What's next in Libya?

As rebels retreated Tuesday from counterattacks launched by forces loyal to dictator Moammar Gadhafi, diplomats from 40 nations, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, met in London to consider the plight of Libya.

They had no easy answers to the question of what's next. Nor did President Obama present any simple solutions in his address on Monday night. Obama ably articulated why this fight is right for the United States, but he could not say how, or when, the nation's involvement will end.

The president gave both strategic and moral explanations for his decision to intervene in Libya, which he stressed was made “after consulting the bipartisan leadership of Congress.”

Noting Gadhafi's vow to show "no mercy" to the "rats" challenging his regime, Obama said allowing that "massacre ... would have driven thousands of additional refugees across Libya's borders, putting enormous strains on the peaceful—yet fragile—transitions in Egypt and Tunisia."

But the president suggested that the strategic interest of protecting those embryonic democracies was surpassed by this nation's historical obligation to act when oppression in other lands reaches a point where it becomes irresponsible to ignore it.

"It is true that America cannot use our military wherever repression occurs," Obama said. "And given the costs and risks of intervention, we must always measure our interests against the need for action. But that cannot be an argument for never acting on behalf of what's right."

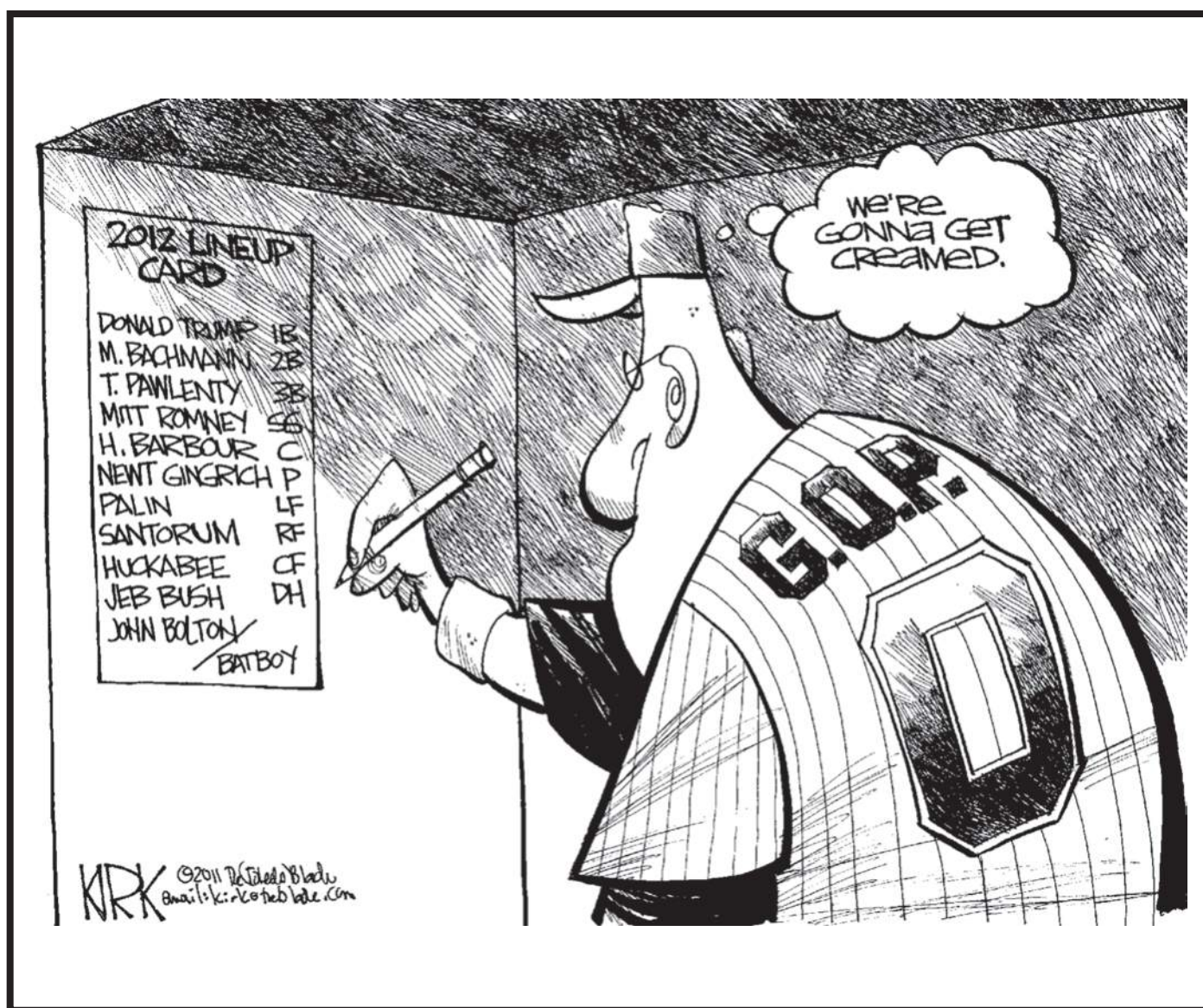
Well said, but will those words come back to haunt the president if the people yearning for freedom in Syria or Yemen find themselves similarly facing massacre? No doubt Zimbabweans wish someone would rescue them from the murderous despot Robert Mugabe.

At least Obama did say Libya won't become another Iraq, where billions of dollars and thousands of U.S. soldiers' lives have been spent over the past eight years. But war-weary Americans know the impact can be just as great if our military is asked to hopscotch across the globe.

The president did a good job of countering political critics' suggestion that he was slow to help the Libyans. He pointed out it would have been disastrous to act unilaterally. Given the mistrust of the United States in the Mideast generated by the Iraq war, it was important to wait for an Arab-inspired effort against Gadhafi to develop.

In that vein, it was important to see the United States hand over the lead coalition role in Libya to NATO. That doesn't mean this country won't continue to play a significant part, but it may help keep U.S. troops out of a ground war that looks like it will require much more aid to the rebels than maintaining a no-fly zone.

Obama expressed hope that nonmilitary means can persuade Gadhafi to give up. But that didn't seem likely as his forces advanced Tuesday. So, what's next?



Bias in human relationships

A few years ago, I decided I was going to learn how to invest in stocks. I signed up for a course, and diligently studied the material and did all the exercises. I remember there were phrases like price-to-earnings ratio, three-day trailing averages, convergence pressures, and other such concepts that would supposedly guide the would-be investor to the land of riches. After completing the course and looking carefully at what it would take to do this kind of investing, I decided I didn't have the stomach to actively manage stocks. Now, a few years later, I don't really remember much about the course. But I do remember one concept that has helped me gain insight into myself and my relationships: the concept of bias.

You see, as far as the pros are concerned, stock market investments should be objective. Investment decisions should be guided by the numbers, not by feelings or emotion. Bias is one form of emotion. There is positive bias and negative bias. Let's say you are trying to decide between two companies to invest in. Both companies are doing well as far as the numbers go, but you're just not sure where to put your money. You like one of the companies because, well, you really can't identify why you like it. You just like it. This "like" for the company is a form of bias—positive bias. When you have positive bias toward a company, you tend to ignore or diminish bad news that may arise about the company. "Oh, this isn't really a crisis," you tell yourself, "I'm sure they'll come out of it fine." You want the company to succeed and to do well, so you ignore signs to the contrary. Negative bias is the opposite. You don't care much for the company, and therefore, you accentuate any bad qualities and tend to ignore the good ones.

Well, I came to realize that I have quite a few biases. It's a phenomenon that is not only limited to companies and picking stocks, but also to human relationships and people. For example, over the course of my career, I've worked with a variety of subspecialists to whom I occasionally send patients. The patients that need their care have very complex problems, and the procedures they need are also complex. Some of the patients come back better, and some don't. The outcome is not necessarily related to the doctor, but rather to the complexity of the disease.

One of the subspecialists to whom I refer patients is a nice guy. I like him. I'm comfortable calling him and talking to him about patients. I email him when I have a question, and he always emails me back within a few hours. These things give me positive bias toward this doctor such that when he sends a patient back to me that has had a bad outcome, I never think it's his fault. I don't question his skill or his judgment. I just accept that the disease was complex, and that was the reason for the bad outcome.

BETTER LIVING

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



David Khorram, M.D., is a board-certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, which has been hailed by Retinal Physician Magazine as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in Guide to American's Top Ophthalmologists and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.

On the other hand, another doctor to whom I've referred is a skilled doctor, but he has antagonized a variety of his colleagues through his competitive behavior and uncomplimentary comments. When he was sending patients back that did not have the best outcome, I found myself thinking, "Man, this guy doesn't know what he's doing," and I stopped referring patients to him. But when I really thought about it, I realized that the success rates of the two doctors were the same.

Now, of course, it's natural to want to refer patients to a doctor who is "a nice guy." That's reasonable. But I realized that it was not reasonable to allow biases to cloud my ability to see the facts. My biases made me think one doctor was competent, and another was not. When in fact, their success rates were equal.

I began to see that bias is natural. In the business world, we naturally have positive bias toward people who work cooperatively with us. And we naturally have negative bias toward people (or companies) that are our competitors. So we interpret their actions in different ways. If a competitor commits an error, we are likely to attribute bad intentions to them, or to think that they are incompetent. If that same error comes from someone that is not a competitor—someone we view as a colleague—we shrug off the weaknesses, errors, shortcomings. “No big deal,” we might say, “that happens sometimes.”

I don't think we can avoid bias, but recognizing that such a phenomenon exists helps us be fair—more objective—in the way we view people. Neither positive bias nor negative bias is a good thing. Both can cloud our judgment, our objectivity, and interfere with our relationships. Learning to recognize bias when it arises can help us avoid the pitfalls it can lead to.

Comments or questions? Call Dr. Khorram at 235-9090 or contact him through www.MarianasEye.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pencil-neck geek

Three of the greatest implements of the modern age are the Craftsman 3/8-inch drive ratchet, made in America; the Victorinox Classic Swiss army knife, made in Switzerland; and the Pentel P209 mechanical pencil, made in Japan and, yes, available right here on Saipan.

Wait a minute, sing praises to a pencil, of all things? Darned right. After all, many a great adventure was launched by a line plotted on a chart. Probably most great adventures, come to think of it.

I'm not trying to convince today's computer-based world to embrace the notion of the pencil. In fact, I've never tried to convince anyone to embrace anything, have I? Instead, I'm singing harmony with the established choir, commiserating with the engineers, scientists, number-crunchers, pilots, navigators, and mariners I've known who harbor loyalties to particular models of pencils.

I didn't think about it much until I didn't think about it at all, which made me think about it a lot.

What happened is that I goofed and wound up on the road without my usual P209. Since I was in a big, supposedly sophisticated city, I just sauntered to the store to pick one up. Hey, no big deal, right? Yeah, no deal at all, actually: The store didn't have them. So I went to another store. No luck there, either.

Oh, pencils, they had. A whole galaxy of multi-colored packages. But when I want a pencil, I mean a usable pencil. Not some dull stub for marking golf cards. Not some goofball gimmick the color of flavored soda pop. Not a 30-pack of 7-cent wonders made from recycled leisure suits. Not a cheesy, two-buck special made of brushed, slag metal too low-grade to make beer cans out of.

Egads! Why is this so difficult? Cynics will tell you the end stage of capitalism is when it chokes on its vomit of tawdry trash. Optimists will say that choking is a pretty fast way to go. Choose your camp wisely.

Well, I wasn't a happy camper. That hapless little adventure inspired me to shore up my lines of supply. So I'm happy to note that Malou, who works at Modern Stationary, advised me that their Garapan location has the P209 in stock. Price: \$4.99. This is the discovery of the year.

They are, indeed, made in Japan by the Pentel company. From what I've seen, the packaging is often labeled "Sharp" as a name for the product line. I don't know anyone who refers to them that way, I've always just heard the model number. Well, whatever.

Who doesn't like new schools and roads?

Editor's Note: The following is a privilege speech the author delivered at a House of Representatives session on March 28, 2011, at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

On March 14, 2011, I made a statement to the press that the Commonwealth should bring up a proposal for a second Marianas political status commission because it appears that the federal government has been screwing us for a long time. With all the problems of federal restrictions and federal double-talk over the years, maybe it's about time to reassess the islands' political relationship with the U.S. The federal assistance is one thing, and we islanders are grateful, but sometimes the federal strings attached can strangle a recipient to bureaucratic death. You know, we are not alone in these state concerns about federal interference and intrusion into state management—just read about the fiasco surrounding ObamaCare! All we want is a chance to re-negotiate a contract that is a common practice since the beginning of time and even the first ancient lawyer, who I believe told Moses that 10, not 100, Commandments were enough federal and spiritual rules at the time.

Later, on March 21, there was a public hearing about my legislation to create this second Marianas political status commission, and there was a good size crowd at the Multi-Purpose Center and the proposal was met with enthusiastic support. The lone opposition came from a long-time disgruntled statesider, who bashes every island leader for being crooked and less intelligent than him.

Moreover, on March 24, similar remarks were made at the recent Economic Summit held at the Saipan World Resort, and someone attacked my previous statement that it "appears" the federal government is screwing us.

Frankly, I said the word "appears" because certain problems and confusion between the federal government and the Commonwealth, besides airline and fishing rights issues, are now coming to definite light, like the alien status situation and overall U.S. immigration problems and its confusing policies. So, now is the time to discuss this issue.

This previous attack on me at the Economic Summit sounded like another disgruntled statesider, who flew off the handle like a rant-

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



The "9" in "209" refers to the size of the lead. It's 0.9 millimeters in diameter. In pencil-world, this is the thickest offering commonly available these days. I like that because my ham-fisted writing snaps thinner leads. The pencil is made of plastic with some metal parts.

Since we're geeking out here, let's go retro. Are there any other gray-beards out there who remember the Scripto mechanical pencils with 1.1mm leads? You'd advance the lead by twisting the metal collar. The eraser was the size of a ripe Oleai beach coconut. Meanwhile, at the business end of things, they had fairly blunt tips that made them easy to put into a pocket without poking holes in it. Those pencils were virtually bullet-proof. And that's no idle term: The military issued them under the Skilcraft label.

My early notions of those Scriptos predate Aerosmith. In fact, my dad taught me algebra and geometry using Scriptos. And, not too much later, Steven Tyler and the band hit the charts with "Draw the Line." Coincidence? I think not.

OK so much for nostalgia. As for Pentel, I'll note that the P209 has siblings, the P203, P205, and P207 models which, as you've probably surmised, correspondingly come in 0.3 mm, 0.5 mm, and 0.7 mm lead diameters.

In any of these models, the tips on these are very tapered and sharp, I guess so precision drafters can remain true to the edge of their rulers or templates as they scribe lines and shapes. Me, I can't even draw a stick-man, so don't look to me for any answers.

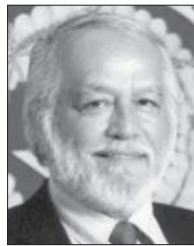
Well, any answer outside of the fact I don't carry one of these things in my breast pocket, since I don't want some mishap like a car crash to implant an ad hoc stent in my ticker. Talk about writing from the heart. No thanks.

But writing by hand makes a lot of sense. After all, the journey of a thousand miles doesn't begin with the first step; it begins with the first course line.

By **STANLEY T. MCGINNIS TORRES**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stanley T. McGinnis Torres is a member of the House of Representatives of the 17th Legislature.



ing ill-informed redneck, stating that I and other island leaders were complaining about us being forced to build roads, improved water lines, and schools! This is an outlandish statement that is normally reserved for certain bigoted outsiders and statesiders, who enjoy bashing island leaders, apparently believing that there are no crooks in Washington, and that Jack Abramhoff was a Jesuit missionary on the islands.

I arrived late at the summit and missed the irresponsible speech, but when I was asked to comment on the speech, I was very disappointed and amazed to hear that the speech was delivered by our own U.S. Congressman, Gregorio Kilili Sablan. Were these his own words attacking his own people, or words written by a redneck speechwriter who had an agenda to embarrass me and my fellow colleagues here in this Legislature? The sarcastic remark that we legislators don't like to be forced to build roads and schools for our people and children is idiotic and despicable. Kilili sounds like we want to spend all the money on cars and travel like former Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Is Congressman Kilili becoming a typical stateside political clone, who attends political cocktail parties, enjoys photo-ops and reads everything written for him without checking the facts? If this is true, then he is sadly turning his back completely on our islands and is forgetting his island ways. Doesn't he realize that I spent years supporting schools and getting legislation passed for alternative and renewable energy in the CNMI Code?

Congressman Kilili, a retraction is in order to clarify this false accusation against me and our island leaders. An apology will only be necessary between you and your own struggling conscience.

Letters to the Editor

Clarification

I am writing in regards to the newspaper article titled *Tug-of-war over Coral Ocean Pt. lease extension* that was printed on the cover page and page four of the Wednesday, March 30, 2011, edition of the *Saipan Tribune*. The article misquoted my comments and, unfortunately, the public is now left with a wrong impression.

Specifically, the article states: "*Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) echoed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's statement in December that he does not support extending the Coral Ocean Point lease, citing the owner's failure to fulfill its obligations and promises, including \$4 million in supposed 'public contribution.'*"

"*Reyes said besides the rumor of Suwaso's intention about Coral Ocean Point, he has learned that the Japanese owners of the hotel have also failed to fulfill the requirements of the original lease, including building condominium units, maintaining the beach area in the property, and for not contributing \$4 million to the community when it first proposed a lease extension.*"

During both the delegation meeting and the phone interview with *Saipan Tribune*, my statements that the owner also failed to fulfill the requirements of the original lease, including building condominium units, maintaining the beach area in the property were my opinion and an accurate quote by *Saipan Tribune*.

However, I did not mention anything about a \$4 million public contribution and have no knowledge as to the validity of those statements. The public is consequently misinformed about the reasons for my stance, and I hope to ratify this problem expediently.

I look forward to a correction to this article in the newspaper, and to working together with the *Saipan Tribune* to give the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the correct information. If there are any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sen. Pete P. Reyes

17th CNMI Legislature, Capital Hill

Keeping our beaches clean

Imagine going to the beach on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, only to be greeted by an army of garbage. For much too long, people have been carelessly littering our island's beaches with trash. It is time for the pollution to stop! In order to keep our beaches clean and beautiful and preserve them for the next generation, children and adults need to start being responsible for their actions. Litter is not just ugly to see, it can also result in disasters in nature.

Garbage that is thrown in the ocean can cause animals to become ill. An example of this is when plastic bags sail far out in the ocean and turtles mistake them for jellyfish. Innocent turtles may try to swallow the synthetic products, causing them to choke and die. Another harmful effect of marine pollution occurs when animals are forced to relocate because their natural habitats have been destroyed.

On shore, trash gradually steals the beauty of our island's coastlines. When garbage is not properly disposed of, animals often scatter them. This can result in health and safety hazards such as broken bottles and sharp cans. It also becomes a magnet for flies and mosquitoes, which spread diseases.

In addition, pollution takes away from the pride of our island. People from around the world come to our island for a glimpse of paradise. If they see that we do not respect our home, they may not respect it either. We have a responsibility to take care of what is our own and show others how to do the same.

Pollution on our beaches is a problem everyone can do something about. Volunteering for beach cleanup, taking care of personal trash when using the beach, encouraging others not to litter, and teaching children to properly dispose of trash are a few simple ways to get started. By being responsible for our actions, we can preserve Saipan's natural beauty for generations to come.






Mycah Yobech

6th Grade, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 83° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 74°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 76

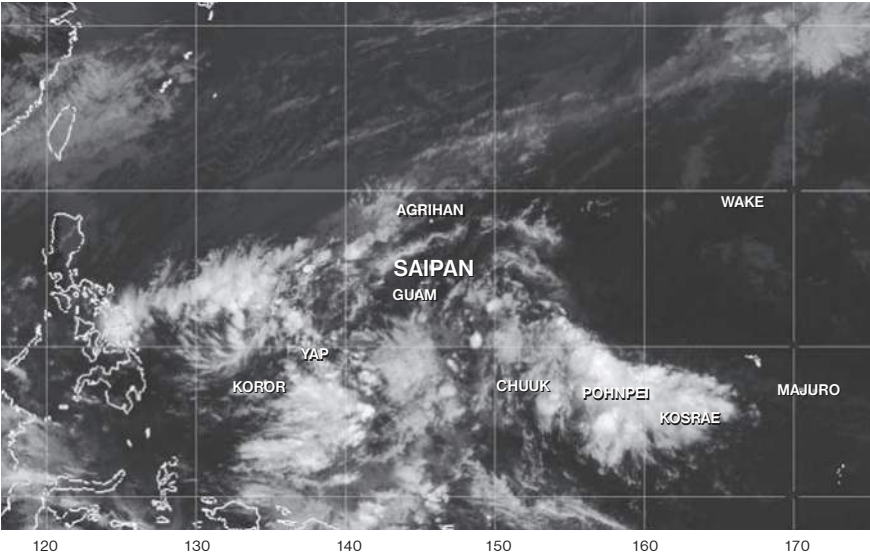
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 60
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 37
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 48
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 58
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 65
New York	Ice	▲ 48 ▼ 36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 42
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 53
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 45
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 51
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 59
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 37
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 41

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
6:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
12:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
6:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from near Minami Torishima at 25N157E to west of Agrihan at 19N143E then continues as a shear line to 14N130E. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the cold front. Cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 5N130E through a broad circulation centered northwest of Koror at 9N134E to end southwest of Chuuk at 6N147E. Another trough extends from the center of the circulation northeastward to the shearline. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring in a broad area around Koror and Yap between the equator and 10N from 132E to 147E and between 10N and 15N from 130E to 137E farther east. Converging trade winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei and just north of Kosrae between 3N and 10N from 153E to 165E and north of Chuuk between 9N and 12N from 148E to 152E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:24 AM	4:39 PM
Saturday	4:59 AM	5:25 PM
Sunday	5:35 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:59 PM
Tuesday	6:49 AM	7:48 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN** Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

Legislative accountability

For the better part of two years I have been frequenting the Legislature pursuing issues of interest. A nagging question has bothered me during many, if not most of those visits.

Inquiring minds want to know: Is the pay check of a lawmaker "docked" when he or she does not attend a session, a committee meeting, or any other official function that mandates his or her attendance?

Not surprisingly, when I asked the speaker's office staff this question, the answer was an empathetic "No!" I was told that the CNMI Constitution affords each legislator a salary regardless of whether or not they fulfill the obligations required by the position that they hold.

That's ridiculous. I have attended committee meetings in which official business could not be conducted because a quorum was not achieved.

I have attended sessions in both the House and Senate in which there were members absent. In last Monday's House session, one lawmaker whose attendance record is far from stellar, left halfway through the proceedings and never returned.

Both groups have a significant problem with punctuality; i.e., sessions and meetings rarely start on time plus these

events are frequently cancelled and/or rescheduled at the last moment. Participation by the general public in the democratic process is hampered when lawmakers show little regard for schedule of those individuals who want to be involved. So much for the Open Government Act!

It is time to hold these lawmakers accountable and in my opinion, the best way to do that is to hit them where it hurts: in the pocketbook. Maybe they should have to time "in" and "out" every day. True "professionals" typically do not need monitoring. Unfortunately, that does not apply here. Walk around the offices on any given day and you will find empty and/or locked offices. Check out the parking lot any morning or afternoon to see how many parking spaces are empty.

Ideally, the House and Senate should be able to police themselves. If not, as a person who taxes pay these individuals, I expect the administration to do something about this deplorable situation.

The next election cycle is too far way; something needs to be done NOW!

Rich Puhalla
Capital Hill, Saipan



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Letters to the Editor

Zoning's primary purpose

Dear Mr. Wyatt: In the past two weeks, there had been letters to the editor in both newspapers regarding the application submitted to rezone a piece of property in the village of Susupe from village residential to village commercial. I have had the time and opportunity to read and completely understand the concept in the two letters from Mr. Marcelino Aguon and Mr. Tocuato Castro regarding the protection of the village from the infestation of commercial development. Allow me to define what the true and real meaning of zoning.

Theoretically, the primary purpose of zoning is to segregate

uses that are thought to be incompatible. In practice, zoning is used to prevent new development from interfering with existing residents and to preserve the "character" of a community. The word zoning is derived from the practice of designating permitted uses of land based on mapped zones, which separate one set of land uses from another. Basically, urban zones fall into one of the five major categories: residential, mixed residential, commercial, industrial and special (i.e. power plants, sports complexes, airports, shopping malls etc.). Each category can have a number of sub-categories;

for example, within the commercial category there may be separate zones for small-retail, large retail, office use, lodging and others, while industrial may be subdivided into heavy manufacturing, light assembly, and warehouse uses.

This is where your office should guide itself along with the Zoning board to outright deny the rezoning application and inform the applicant to go to industrial areas where his type of business should be located.

The Saipan Zoning Office should tighten up the provisions for warehouses and where they can be allowed in

this small island community. If you continue to allow this type of rezoning and conditional use permits, what is the use of your agency? It is probably time for our legislators to begin contemplating "repealing" the Saipan zoning law like they did years ago.

We ask ourselves: Is this project really a good and sound development and investment for our island? How many locals are presently employed in this company? Go there for yourself. When you go there, you will not see or be greeted by local employees; they are all contract workers and perhaps some IRs but they are not local people

from our island. Do not ignore the letters from Mr. Aguon and Mr. Castro because the context of their letter is enough reason to deny this application. Protect our villages and be firm when rendering a decision.

Lastly, I challenge Zoning board chair Diego Blanco not to forget his comments in the *Variety* on March 17, 2011, when he was quoted as saying, "Zoning is ready to implement those aesthetic improvements." Is a warehouse an aesthetic improvement or does he really understand the word "aesthetic"? I live in another village, but I do not want my village to be commercialized. We live in a very small island environment; let us keep it that way. I will attend the public hearing and will listen to all the votes that will be cast by the board. I hope they will all vote no to this project.

Jose C. Sablan
San Vicente, Saipan

A plea for forgiveness

To the family of the late Aniceto T. Taitano: It is with this letter that I offer my deepest condolences for your loss, for it was my unfortunate actions on the morning of April 1, 2009, that caused this horrific tragedy. I understand that words alone cannot heal the wound that I've caused to your family, but please know that a day does not go by (while in jail) that I don't recollect the events of that early morning, a tragic accident that took the life of my friend and classmate. I sincerely regret the pain and heartache my actions have caused to your family. I continue to pray to the Almighty Father for His forgiveness, and I sincerely hope that you find it in your hearts to forgive me for this great ordeal. I am truly sorry and beg for your forgiveness.

If I could change or undo what happened, I would, but unfortunately I cannot. However, I am willing to advocate and promote the "Don't Drink and Drive" campaign, and/or work with any other youth organization to prevent this kind of occurrence from happening to me or anyone. To the people of the CNMI, remember if you must drink, please be responsible and be sure you have a designated driver, because the life you save could be a friend, a family, or your own. Please drive responsibly.

Angel M. Palacios
As Lito, Saipan

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Feel the difference

10 teams and counting as MMAC nears

Ten teams have confirmed their participation in the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer event to be held in May with more teams expected to sign up in the next few weeks.

"We are excited about the increasing interest in the upcoming MMAC and we look forward to welcoming more teams to this charity event," said 2011 MMAC public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion.

The 10 teams that have con-

firmed their participation are Ahu, Aschoscho, Bank of Guam/Garapan Elementary School, Bodig, IT&E, Marianas Health Services/GTC Elementary School, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Take Care/FHP and Tan Holdings/Kagman High School.

"The 2011 MMAC committee is extremely grateful for the commitment these teams are making toward this worthy cause. Their contribution

in the fight against cancer is admirable. At the same time, we are calling on all families, corporations, schools, government agencies and non-profit organizations to take part in the largest cancer fundraising event in the Northern Marianas by forming a team. We know that virtually everyone in the CNMI has been touched by cancer in some form or another so please join us for this worthy cause," said Concepcion.

"We'd also like to remind all

teams that there will be a team captains' meeting today, March 31, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency's Chamolinian Room," said Concepcion. All team captains or their representatives are required to attend this important meeting.

For more information on how to join the 2011 MMAC or if you're interested in supporting this charity event via donations or volunteering, contact overall committee chair Dave B. Guerrero at 989-2496 or via email at

dave.b.guerrero@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 13-14 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. (MMAC)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 3rd birthday to our "Bobboy," Christian James DLC. Ada, who is celebrating his special day today, April 1, 2011! We love you very much! Greetings come from Auntie Mya, Grandma, Grandpa, Niño Adrian, Uncle Shane (Alyvia), Auntie Jennadyn, and your Daddy Ray Ada!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Jerome M. Ortiguerra, who is celebrating his 14th birthday today, April 1, 2011. Greetings coming from Mommy Jane, Kuya Jemo, and Janvir.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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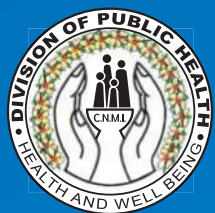
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Developmental Health Watch Birth to 3 Months

- Does not seem to respond to loud noises
- Does not notice hands by 2 months
- Does not follow moving objects with eyes by 2 to 3 months
- Does not smile at people by 3 months
- Cannot support head well by 3 months
- Does not reach for and grasp toys by 3 to 4 months
- Does not babble by 3 to 4 months
- Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions
- Crosses eyes most of the time (occasional crossing of the eyes is normal in these first months)
- Does not pay attention to new faces, or seems very frightened by new faces or surroundings

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830**

for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Present at the check presentation are, from left, TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, Century Insurance operations manager Gol Corpuz, American Red Cross – NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch, Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola, Jr., Fiesta Resort and Spa Human Resources manager Lupe Flores, Saipan Grand Hotel Human Resources manager Joe Ada, American Red Cross- NMI Chapter member Viola Sablan, and Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi.

TanHoldings employees donate \$3,800 for Japan disaster relief

On Wednesday, March 30, 2011, TanHoldings employees on Saipan raised and donated \$3,800 to the American Red Cross—NMI Chapter for disaster relief in quake- and tsunami-stricken Japan.

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan said: “I am very pleased that our Saipan employees heeded the call to our friends in need in

Japan. This disaster hits so close to home and is beyond heart-breaking. Thank you to all our employees who donated these funds. We hope that our contribution can help those impacted by this tragedy as they rebuild their lives and communities.”

John Hirsch, Red Cross—NMI Chapter executive director, said: “The American Red Cross

donations received toward Japan have surpassed \$120 million. At this point, every cent we raise matters, and the NMI Chapter expresses its thanks to the entire NMI community and to the employees of TanHoldings. This money will go toward the purchase of supplies that will reach the areas that need help the most.” (PR)



Japanese Society of



Northern Marianas



Our friends in Japan need our help!

JOIN US HELP JAPAN

NMI Japan Disaster Relief Organization in collaboration with KKMP Radio, will be hosting a
Radio-thon Fundraising Drive and Walkathon
Saturday, April 2, 2011 • 7am to 5:30pm
Garapan Fishing Base • Walkathon begins at 4:30pm



Food Sales • Raffles • Entertainment

Radio-thon purpose is to collect monetary donations for Japan Earthquake-Tsunami Disaster. If you are unable to come down to the Fishing Base, we will pick up the donation in your location. Call 256-HELP (4357) from 7am to 4pm on April 2, 2011 to make your pledges.

This advertisement is paid for by

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Brilliant Star School gears up for Kite Festival this Sunday

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kite flyers and enthusiasts and the rest of the community are invited to join and have fun at the Marianas Winds Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair this Sunday.

Organized by Brilliant Star Montessori School and co-sponsored by Marianas Visitors Authority, the event will be held from 10am to 3pm at the American Memorial Park Center Ball Field.

School principal Richard Sikkel said this is the fourth time that the Brilliant Star Montessori School will be hosting the event—one of the school's biggest fundraisers.

According to Sikkel, funds raised this year will be used to strengthen the school's elementary class reading comprehension program.

"We organize the Kite Festival not only as an event to raise funds for the long-term development of our school, but also as a community project to bring families together and attract local as well as tourist participation," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Marianas Winds Kite Festival and Cultural Fair will feature several kite contests, including highest flying kite, smallest kite, biggest kite, and most eye catching kite.

Sikkel said participants have the choice to use homemade kites or commercial kites, as Brilliant Star has available kites for sale at the school office.

Prices for the kites range from \$8 to \$15 per kite. He said the largest kite available on sale measures five meters in length.

"Participants can do pretty much whatever they want with their kites as long as it can fly at a minimum of 10 feet and minimum time of five minutes. Use of fishing line is prohibited," he added.

Additionally, there will be games, arts and crafts, as well as various cultural foods prepared by the school community and will be available during the event.

"Kite festivals are globally popular family fun-oriented events and we are inviting the public to join us in this event," said Sikkel.

For more information, contact Brilliant Star Montessori School at 323-7827 or 28.

New UFO officers to be inducted April 2

The United Filipino Organization CNMI Inc., more popularly known as the UFO, will induct its new set of officers tomorrow, April 2, 2011, at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall at 7pm. The new officers will serve two-year terms from January 2011 to December 2012.

The group has solicited sponsors for the induction souvenir book that aims to raise funds for UFO's upcoming projects. At the same time, the group has solicited door prizes for the raffle drawing, which is intended to raise funds for Japan's tsunami victims.

Raffle tickets cost \$5 each, with a free Coca Cola product and a chance to win door prizes during the program.

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig will be inducting the new officers. Distinguished guests have been invited and UFO friends and supporters are also urged to witness the event.

Doors will open at 6pm and dinner cost is \$20 only. Filipiniana attire is required for all officers (outgoing and incoming), board of directors, and advisers

while guests and visitors are encouraged to come in formal wear.

UFO's board of directors is composed of all presidents of different Filipino associations under UFO. Filipino associations who are not yet part of the UFO are invited to join the wagon of unity under the leadership of Bong Malasarte, the newly elected UFO president (MDX Radio Group).

Other elected officers are Hector Sevilla, VP-Admin (MAFEA); Paul Madriaga, VP-Internal (NAMFREL); Bok Enano, VP-External (BAYANI); Jun Liberato, secretary (MAFEA); Yoly De Ramos, assistant secretary (BAYANI); Evelyn Deazeta, treasurer (BAYANI); Lyn Dela Cruz, assistant treasurer (CNMI POWER); Tony Soriano, auditor (SIP); and Charlie Centina (VISMINDA), James Galvez (CNMI POWER), and Joel Dupra (BAYANI), public relation officers.

For details, contact the president at 287-5525, the secretary at 235-1314 or email us at united.filipino.org@gmail.com. You can also add us on Facebook (UFO Filorg). (PR)

Jeffries Beach red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Jeffries Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from the beach had excessive concentrations of fecal

indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

OIA initiative will survey public schools in US territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Office of Insular Affairs has launched an initiative that aims to assess the status of public schools in four U.S. territories.

The initiative, called *Insular Schools: Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (Insular A, B, C's)*, follows on the availability of an OIA report entitled *U.S. Insular Areas Education Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment Study (Phase I)*.

OIA has contracted the Army Corps of Engineers to generate a report that provides a rudimentary, initial assessment of public schools throughout the territories.

According to the report, throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, there

are a total of 1,561 public buildings that help comprise a total of 125 campuses and serve a total population of 70,750 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition, Phase I supports and makes recommendations for undertaking an additional, more focused study.

"From the collaboration between OIA and ACOE, it was clear that continuing the study would result in a useful tool which will empower island leaders and local departments of education when making decisions on how to prioritize scarce resources," said Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta.

Insular ABC's will continue the OIA/ACOE partnership and add to it leadership from the island's Executive Branches and Departments of Education.



Babauta

Working with local officials, *Insular ABC's* will develop a thorough baseline inventory and assessment of all elementary, middle, and high school buildings over the next 14 months.

The information gathered by

the initiative will provide island decision-makers with insights concerning the overall physical condition of all public school facilities; an accounting of deferred maintenance and replacement values; and identify trends in maintenance practices and requirements in order to pinpoint opportunities for efficiencies.

"Ultimately, every island community has as its core concerns, the future and opportunities we provide to our children. Though we will continue to struggle with the challenges to fund new school construction, we can still make wise decisions with current resources. *Insular ABC's* can be the blueprint for future improvements and current maintenance to every island school system," said Babauta. (OIA)

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Across-the-board allotment cuts at 7.9 pct. starting April

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From an earlier estimate of 9 to 10 percent, the monthly allotment cut starting in April has been reduced to 7.9 percent,

press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, at the same time, said the allotment cut will be across-the-board, and no agency, department or branch will be spared.

"It's a proportionate reduction," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "But keep in mind the public law for appropriation for the year requires legislative approval or concurrence...Number one is we propose, and submit it

over to them for concurrence."

The monthly allotments are being cut because the \$132 million estimated revenues for the current fiscal year has proven to be much higher than the actual revenue collected.

In the first five months of fiscal year 2011, for example, the government has been behind by \$7 million to \$8 million in projected revenue.

Worse, the fiscal year 2011 budget of \$132 million will further drop to an estimated \$120 million in 2012.

House Ways and Means

Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) agreed that if the allotments will have to be cut, they have to apply to everyone.

Other lawmakers also support no-exemptions to the allotment cuts, contrary to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) earlier request for an exemption for the Legislature.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Library Friends meeting, book sale

The Library Friends will hold a book and parking lot sale on April 16, Saturday, from 7:30am to 2:30 pm. There will be eight available tent spaces for food vendors and those who want to sell their items during the event. Rental fee is \$45 per tent. For reservations, contact the library front desk at 235-7322. Location of space will be on a first reserved, first choice basis.

Library Friends president Maureen Sebangiol also that there will be a meeting at the library tomorrow, April 2, at 11am. (PR)

Judges needed for NJFL competitions

Here is the next opportunity to help judge and enjoy the NJFL competitions! Harold Easton and the National Junior Forensic League are looking for judges on two dates, Friday evening,

April 1, and Saturday, April 2:

First day's events: Judges are needed to help with today's NJFL regional competition at Hopwood Junior High School. Judges are asked to report to the Hopwood Junior High School cafeteria by 4pm today, April 1. If you can't make it by 4pm but still want to help, come late—we can still use you.

Second day's events: Judges are needed to help with Saturday's NJFL regional competition

at Marianas High School. Judges are asked to report to the Marianas High School Counselors' Office by 8am for the morning events and by 1pm for the afternoon events on Saturday, April 2. Also, if you want to help but have to come late, come late—we will still use you. (PR)

Mount Carmel Class of '76 meeting

There will be a meeting for all Mount Carmel School gradu-

ates of 1976 on April 1, 2011, at 6pm, at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion. For more information, call Martin Borja Ada at (670)789-8867 or email at martinada61@yahoo.com. (PR)

Autism Awareness Walk tomorrow

The National Honor Society Alliance, made up of different schools on Saipan, is holding an Autism Awareness Walkathon tomorrow, April 2, 2011, at the Airport Football field. Registration starts at 6am.

The NHS is asking for \$3 donations that will help spread the awareness of autism in the CNMI. Proceeds will go to buying books, magazines, and any other materials that will be used at schools, libraries, and homes. First 100 donors get shirts.

Waiver forms are available at the following high schools: Mount Carmel School, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Grace Christian Academy. They will also be available at the walkathon. Participants 17 years and under must get parental consent. (PR)

Jury selections on April 4 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panels "OS" that the jury selections scheduled for April, 4 at 8:30am in courtroom 220A are hereby cancelled until further notice. For more information, contact jury coordinator Dora SN. Decena or deputy clerk George Lisua at 236-9765. (PR)

6 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach drainage, and Sugar Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

SVES registration schedule

San Vicente Elementary School registration for school year

2011-2012 is scheduled to begin on May 2-6, 2011, from 9am-12pm and from 2-4pm in the school main office. Child must be 5 years on or before Aug. 31, 2006 as per BOE policy. DOB must be between 9/1/05-8/31/06 and registration requirements are: Birth certificate, health certificate, health/accident insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/ legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school.

■ Kindergarten: May 2-6, 2011
■ 1st-3rd grade: May 9-13, 2011
■ 4th-6th grade: May 16-20, 2011

For more information, contact the school at 237-3791. (PR)

Chamorro arts and crafts expert on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, April 2, 2011, the Chamorro talk show program Marianas Agupa will feature Noah Quitugua, a Chamorro arts and craft expert, from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the preservation and knowledge of Chamorro arts and crafts and how to use it to promote the tourism industry.

The program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will also feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola, and Tinian correspondent former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

April Foo's Foosball Tourney on Saturday

Oleai Beach Bar & Grill is hosting the First Annual, International, CNMI, Open Derby, No Holds Barred, Winner Take All (Second and Third Place Take Some), Friendship, April Foo's Foosball Tourney this Saturday, April 2, starting at 1pm!

Sign up today or anytime before noon on Saturday. There's no fee to play, and each participant in the tourney will get a free Mello Yello or Foremost Ice Cream, plus tons of foosball fun, a gorgeous ocean view, great company among friends, heated competition, and awesome food and drinks. Winning teams get cool prizes from Docomo, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, and Mello Yello. There will also be a special \$1 raffle benefiting the Commonwealth Cancer Association—more chances to win awesome prizes! Reserve your spot today by calling Oleai Beach Bar & Grill at 235-1756; ask for Tami. (PR)

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SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh 500ml. x 20 \$5⁹⁹ /CASE	Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) \$25⁹⁹	Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) \$26⁹⁹ <small>3 DAYS ONLY APR. 1, 2 & 3</small>	Sapporo Ichiban 21 pcs./case (LIMIT 1) \$8⁹⁹ /CASE	Marukiyo Rice Cracker 100pcs. \$8⁹⁹	MH Coffee Mix 100 sticks \$6⁹⁹ LIMIT 1	Milo 1kg. \$5⁹⁹ LIMIT 2	Nescafe Classic 210g. \$5⁹⁹ LIMIT 2

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Gusto Ham 10 lbs. \$16⁹⁹ Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. \$17⁹⁹	Miller Sausage 5 lbs. \$15⁹⁹	Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. \$4⁹⁹	Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. \$2⁹⁹	Spam 12 oz. LIMIT 6 ALL FLAVORS \$2²⁹	Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. (Limit 6) \$1⁵⁹	Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 69¢	Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 89¢	Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 \$2⁵⁹	
Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. \$1¹⁵	Fish 4 You Crab Meat Stick 16 oz. \$1⁹⁹	Ground Beef 5 LBS. \$9⁹⁹ 10 LBS. \$17⁹⁹	Bar-S Hotlinks 24 oz. \$3⁹⁹	Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. \$1⁹⁹	Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. \$1⁷⁹	DM Beef Stew 15 oz. \$1⁷⁹	Coco Tuna 7oz. Limit 6 \$1¹⁹	3 Diamond Tuna 12 oz. Limit 12 \$1¹⁹	Hornel Corned Beef 12 oz. \$1⁹⁹
Mackarel/Pike Family Bag \$6⁹⁹	Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. \$2⁹⁹	Ocean Best Marinara Mix 1 lb. \$2⁴⁹	Cut Swimming Crab 1.5 lbs. \$6⁹⁹	Sun Flower A1 Sardines \$2³⁹ \$1³⁹	Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 99¢	Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. \$1⁰⁹	Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 89¢	Carnation Evaporated 12 oz. (U.S.) \$1³⁹	
Vega Shrimp 1 lb. \$5⁵⁰ Limit 1	Imperial Choice Green Mussels 2 lbs. \$4⁹⁹	Chicken Wings 3 lbs. \$6⁹⁹ 5.5 lbs. \$12⁹⁹	Milk Fish \$1³⁹	Filma Cooking Oil 5L \$9⁹⁹	AVO Vegetable Oil 1 Gal \$7⁹⁹	Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 \$32⁹⁹ \$31⁹⁹ 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 1, 2 & 3	Garden Fresco Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. \$7⁹⁹	Golden State White Vinegar 1 gallon \$3⁴⁹	Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil 64 oz. \$8⁹⁹
Tilapia \$99¢	U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen \$2³⁹	Onion 79¢	Garlic \$2⁹⁹	Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes) 1 Gal. \$6⁹⁹	Kikkoman 1.6 L. \$3⁹⁹	Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. \$4⁹⁹	Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. \$2⁹⁹	Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. \$4⁹⁹	

<p>Korean Butane Gas Limit 1 Case</p>  <p>\$21⁹⁹ <small>(CASE)</small> 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 1, 2 & 3</p>	<p>Foam Cups 51 cnts.</p>  <p>\$1⁹⁹</p>	<p>Bounty Basic</p>  <p>\$16⁹⁹ <small>15 ROLLS</small></p>	<p>Bounty 15 Rolls</p>  <p>\$20⁹⁹</p>	<p>Foam Plates 125 ct.</p>  <p>\$7⁹⁹</p>	
<p>SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.) 2 PCS.</p>  <p>\$3⁰⁰</p>	<p>Horse Shampoo 1 qrt.</p>  <p>\$3⁰⁰ <small>EACH</small></p>	<p>Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts.</p>  <p>\$1⁵⁰</p>	<p>Bottled White Candle (China) 12 pcs/case</p>  <p>\$13⁹⁹ <small>(CASE)</small></p>	<p>Huggies Big Pack (all size)</p>  <p>\$20⁹⁹</p>	<p>Luvs Big Pack (All Size)</p>  <p>\$20⁹⁹</p>

Cottonelle double 24=48 rolls \$16⁹⁹	Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. \$7⁹⁹
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GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	\$19.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	\$16.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	\$7.99
SCOTT NAPKIN (250 SHEETS)	\$3.49

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BEEF SHANK	\$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	\$7.95
FLANK STEAK	\$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	\$16.95
PORK ADOBO	\$10.95	BEEF STEW	\$12.95
PORK CHOP	\$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	\$17.95
PORK BELLY	\$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	\$14.95
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Mackerel 15 oz. \$1²⁹ 	Sugar 2 kg. \$2³⁹ 	Iodized Salt 26 oz. 79¢ 	Crisco Shortening 3 lbs. \$4⁹⁹ Vegetable \$5⁹⁹ Butter 	Nissin Cup Noodles 27 oz./box all flavors \$5⁹⁹ 	
Argo Corn Starch Limit 3 pcs. 99¢ 	Kraft Cool Whip 16 OZ. \$3⁹⁹ 	Philadelphia Original Cream Cheese \$2⁹⁹ 	Maxwell House 34.5 oz. \$9⁹⁹ 	Coffee Mate 50 oz. \$9⁹⁹ 	Folgers 33.9 oz. \$9⁹⁹ 
Country Time Lemonade 2.33 Kg. \$8⁹⁹ 	Tang 22 qts. \$7⁹⁹ 	Lipton Ice Tea 4 oz. \$6⁹⁹ 	Kool Aid 5 lbs. \$8⁹⁹ 	Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only \$6⁹⁹ 	
Excellent Bihon 99¢ 	Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. \$5⁹⁹ 	Chamorro Punch 2L \$6⁹⁹ 	Real Fresh Milk (Reduced/Regular) \$21⁹⁹ /CASE 	Enfamil Premium Lipil 16x8oz. RTF \$41⁹⁹ /CASE 	Caprisun Drinks 177ml. \$2⁹⁹ /BOX 
Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only \$13⁹⁹ 	Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) \$12⁹⁹ 	Kool Aid Jammer 177ml. \$2⁹⁹ /BOX 	Pepsi 330ml Warm Only \$13⁹⁹ /CASE All Flavors 	Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only \$27⁹⁹ 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 1, 2 & 3 	



Members of the Koblerville Village Neighborhood Watch accept the donated bushcutter and riding mower from House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Rep. Joseph Palacios, and Sen. Luis Crisostimo yesterday afternoon.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Koblerville Village Neighborhood Watch gets equipment

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three lawmakers expressed support to the efforts of the Koblerville Village Neighborhood Watch by donating equipment to the group.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) donated a bushcutter while Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) donated a riding mower.

The three presented the equipment yesterday afternoon at the Koblerville Youth Center grounds.

Cabrera, in an interview, said members of the Neighborhood Watch would call his and Palacios' offices to solicit for supplies to continue their work in their villages.

"We do what we can to help," said Cabrera, adding that this is the second bushcutter that they donated to the group.

"Basically, we're just providing them

with supplies, equipment, whatever it takes to help them get the job done," said Palacios.

Palacios commended the volunteers, who also have jobs and chores to attend to but take time to beautify their villages.

Crisostimo, who recognized that "these are very hard times" especially for the local government, disclosed that he allotted one of his paychecks to buy the riding mower.

"I think keeping the lawns maintained and the village clean adds value to the community. What they do makes Saipan a better place to live," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Crisostimo said the volunteers not only maintain the cleanliness of their village but also discourage criminals who might lurk in areas that are not well-kept around the village.

"I hope they continue making the community safer not only for us resi-

dents but for other people who want to stay or live here," he said.

John Reyes, block captain for Koblerville Village Neighborhood Watch, said they are "so happy" with the donation.

He said the equipment would be useful in maintaining road shoulders and grass lawns in the village.

"This contribution will enable us to provide services in the neighborhood. The beautification continues," he said.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho said the equipment will be used exclusively by the Koblerville Village Neighborhood Watch.

"That's why we want to encourage other lawmakers and business establishments to help us out and support the Neighborhood Watch Task Force program. We need to be proactive and take action to have a clean and safe environment," he said.

High Court backs lower court decision in case against DPL

On Thursday, March 31, 2011 the CNMI Supreme Court unanimously upheld a Superior Court decision that the Department of Public Lands is not liable for Edward M. DeLeon Guerrero's alleged breach of contract.

This case, *Guerrero v. Department of Public Lands*, arose in February 2006 after Public Law 15-2 dissolved the Marianas Public Lands Authority and replaced it with the Department of Public Lands. Guerrero had originally signed a contract with MPLA in October 2004. The contract stated that Guerrero would serve as MPLA commissioner for four years with a base salary of \$80,000. The contract also included terms that provided that if Guerrero was ever dismissed "without cause," he was to receive either 12 months' pay or a lump sum for the remaining duration of the contract, whichever period was longer. Once the MPLA board of directors understood that the MPLA was going to be dissolved, they acted to terminate Guerrero "without cause" so that he would be eligible to receive a lump sum payment under the terms of the contract.

The trial court found that portions of Guerrero's contract violated CNMI law. Specifically, the trial court determined that the four-year term of the contract and the lump sum term violated CNMI law because Guerrero's position at the MPLA was statutorily defined as "at will," and the provisions of Guerrero's contract made him a "for cause" employee. The trial court also found that that MPLA board did not comply with the Open Government Act, or OGA, when it attempted

to terminate Guerrero without cause.

Guerrero argued that the Superior Court erred in concluding that: (i) the MPLA statute gave the MPLA board authority to enter into any employment contract it wished, and therefore, Guerrero's employment did not exceed statutory authority (ii) his termination was proper under the OGA, and his actual date of termination was Feb. 22, 2006; and (iii) even if Guerrero's termination under the OGA was improper, the fact that the governor appointed an acting secretary for DPL on Feb. 22 terminated his duties to MPLA as a matter of law.

The Supreme Court upheld the trial court's decision and found that: (i) the MPLA had broad authority to enter into employment contracts, but lacked the authority to contract around specific statutory provisions defining the position of commissioner as "at-will"; (ii) the MPLA failed to comply with provisions of the OGA thus invalidating the MPLA board's attempt to terminate Guerrero without cause; (iii) the cutoff date for liability between Guerrero and DPL was Feb. 22, 2006, because both the trial court and Guerrero agreed that that was the appropriate date.

The Supreme Court reversed the trial court on a minor point. The trial court's opinion explicitly stated that Guerrero abandoned his position as the MPLA commissioner. Because of the unique circumstances surrounding Guerrero's termination, the Supreme Court held that it would be unfair to uphold the trial court's finding of abandonment. (PR)

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MAXWELL COFFEE MIX 100 STICKS  \$7⁹⁹	MAXWELL COFFEE MIX 20 STICKS  \$1⁶⁹	SAIPAN SPARKLE CLEAN WATER 500ml 20 CTS  \$6⁹⁹	SEOKSU WATER 500ml 20 CTS  \$5⁹⁹	LONG LIFE FLOUR STICKS  89¢	ANCHOR FULL CREAM MILK 1.8 KG.  \$21⁹⁹
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BOUNTY PAPER TOWEL  \$1⁶⁹	CHARMIN BASIC 24 ROLLS  \$14⁵⁰	DR. FRESH TOOTHBRUSH FAMILY PACK  \$1⁷⁵	PALMOLIVE SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER  \$1⁹⁹	SAFEGUARD BAR SOAP  75¢	VASELINE SHAMPOO  \$2⁴⁹
TOILETTE TISSUE  \$3⁴⁹	GAIN LIQUID DETERGENTS 50oz. 24 LOADS  \$5⁹⁹	JOY DISHWASHING LIQUID 90oz.  \$6⁹⁹	DAWN DISHWASHING LIQUID 90oz.  \$8⁹⁵	COLGATE TOOTHPASTE 50ML.  \$1⁹⁹	BIG ROUND ROLL TISSUE  \$1⁵⁹
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BEEF STEW.....	\$9.99
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BEEF BACKRIBS.....	\$9.99
BEEF RIB EYE.....	\$15.99
STEWING CHICKEN.....	\$5.99
CHICKEN WINGS.....	\$9.99
CHICKEN LEG QUARTER.....	\$5.99
CHICKEN NUGGETS.....	\$9.99
FISH STICKS.....	\$7.99

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Business

US economy outpaces rivals even as job growth lags

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is out of step with the rest of the world’s richest industrialized nations: Its economy is growing faster than theirs but creating far fewer jobs. The reason is U.S. workers have become so productive that

it’s harder for anyone without a job to get one. Companies are producing and profiting more than when the recession began, despite fewer workers. They’re hiring again, but not fast enough to replace most of the 7.5 million jobs lost since the recession began. Measured in growth, the

American economy has outperformed those of Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan—every Group of 7 developed nation except Canada, according to The Associated Press’ new Global Economy Tracker, a quarterly analysis of 22 countries representing more than 80 percent of global output. Yet the U.S. job market re-

mains the group’s weakest. U.S. employment bottomed and started growing again a year ago, but there are still 5.4 percent fewer American jobs than in December 2007. That’s a much sharper drop than in any other G-7 country. The U.S. had the G-7’s highest unemployment rate as of December.

Canada and Germany have actually added jobs since the recession ended in June 2009. U.S. companies aren’t acting the way economists had expected them to. In the past, when the U.S. economy fell into recession, companies typically cut jobs but often kept more than they needed. Some might have felt protective of their staffs. Or they didn’t want to risk losing skilled employees they’d need once business rebounded.

tory floors, counting inventory, painting warehouses. The result is that productivity—output per workers—has typically decelerated or even dropped as the economy has weakened. Japan and Europe have been following that script. At the depth of the recession in 2009, productivity shrank 3.7 percent in Japan and 2.2 percent in Europe. The United States has proved the exception. U.S. productivity growth doubled from 2008 to 2009, then doubled again in 2010, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

AP-GfK Poll: Americans souring more on economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—For all the talk of recovery, Americans are growing increasingly pessimistic about the economy as soaring gas costs strain already-tight budgets. But so far, people aren’t taking it out on President Barack Obama, a new Associated Press-GfK poll shows.

Even so, the survey highlights a central challenge Obama will face in his campaign for re-election. The president will have to convince a lot of voters who are still feeling financial hardship that things are getting better.

Obama’s approval ratings have held steady at around 50 percent over the past month. But the disconnect between negative perceptions of the economy and signs that a rebound are under way could provide an opening for Republicans at the outset of the 2012 campaign.

In the survey, just a sliver of Americans—15 percent—said they believed the economy had improved over the past month,

compared with 30 percent who had thought that in January. Only a third were optimistic of better times ahead for the country, down from about half earlier this year. And 28 percent thought the economy would get worse, the largest slice of people who have expressed that sentiment since the question was first asked in December 2009.

“It’s in a poor state,” said Billy Shirley, 74, a Democrat from

Commerce, Ga. “Everything’s going to the bad. Everyone’s spending more on gas, food, everything. The prices on everything are going up, and that’s hurting the nation.”

Recent economic indicators paint a more positive picture: The unemployment rate, though still high at 8.9 percent, has been declining, and consumer spending and personal income were both up last month. The gross domestic product was growing at an annual rate of 3.1 percent as last year ended.



Obama

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Anniversary flight to Gulf disaster site planned

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The owner of the rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico nearly one year ago is quietly arranging to fly relatives of the 11 men who died out to the disaster site on the anniversary next month. Four families told The Associated Press they’ve been notified in telephone calls and emails about Transocean’s plans for a morning flyover at sea and a private evening memorial service on land. Shelley Anderson, whose husband was killed, said the helicopter will circle the site a few times and return to shore. Space is being limited to three people per family. The families would then be flown from Louisiana to Houston for the service.

Medicare to pay for \$93,000 prostate cancer drug

WASHINGTON (AP)—Medicare officials said Wednesday that the program will pay the \$93,000 cost of prostate cancer drug Provenge, an innovative therapy that typically gives men suffering from an incurable stage of the disease an extra four months to live. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid said the biotech drug made by Dendreon Corp. is a “reasonable and necessary” medicine. The decision ensures that millions of men would be able to afford the drug through the government-backed health care coverage. With government reimbursement, analysts estimate Provenge could rack up \$1 billion in sales next year. The decision, which will be finalized by June 30, is important for Dendreon because most prostate cancer patients are 65 or older.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

JAPANESE SWORD TRADING AND CONSULTING COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given that JAPANESE SWORD TRADING AND CONSULTING COMPANY LIMITED, a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation (the "Corporation"), was dissolved effective as of March 31, 2011. All persons with claims against the Corporation are to send them in writing to the Corporation at the following address: PMB 700 P.O. BOX 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. The written claim must include the following information:

- 1) Claimant's full legal name and contact information (address, email, telephone, fax, etc.);
- 2) Summary description and amount of the claim; and
- 3) Date the claim arose.

Pursuant to 4 CMC § 4607, the claim of each of the following claimants is barred unless the claimant commences a proceeding to enforce the claim against the Corporation within five (5) years after the publication date of this newspaper notice:

1. A claimant who did not receive written notice under 4 CMC § 4606;
2. A claimant whose claim was timely sent to the Corporation but not acted on; and
3. A claimant whose claim is contingent or based on an event occurring after the effective date of dissolution.

Japanese Sword Trading and Consulting Company Limited

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-TMC-068

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 13, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE 13TH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - TINIAN BRANCH”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ LYNETTE I. HOFSCHEIDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 9, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2011-004 (A – D)

“GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF NMHC’S PROPERTIES (LISTING A-D) IN SAIPAN”

Proposal packets will be available on April 4, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **9:00 a.m. on April 14, 2011**, at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Section 8 Multi-Family Account.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DPW/ED-066

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 19, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“ENERGY PROFILE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS”

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMIARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED AT THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO energy_profile@recovery.gov.mp.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 05, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M., AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA E-MAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 07, 2011.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT, AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, PROC. & SUPPLY

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMIARRA STATE LEAD

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
“Yes I Can!”

P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2011 Second General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and adoption of January 06, 2011 Minutes
- IV. Reports
 - OVR Director
 - Chairman
 - CLI Director
- V. Old Business
 - Public Forum for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
 - Needs Assessment
 - HB 17-43
 - By-Laws Amendment
 - Membership Status
- VI. New Business
 - SILC Training/Webinar
 - Radio Talk Show
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
“Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members”

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(JVA 11-003)

POSITIONS:

BENEFITS TECHNICIAN I, NMIRF
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,
Workers’ Compensation Comm.

LOCATION:

SAIPAN

OPENING DATE:

April 1, 2011

CLOSING DATE:

April 15, 2011

The NMI Retirement Fund (“Fund”) seeks individuals to work at the Fund and the Workers’ Compensation Commission as support staff in a challenging environment. Interested applicants must submit their application, educational credentials, police clearance and a valid ID by 4:30 pm on Friday, April 15, 2011. The complete Position Descriptions are available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail request to sablanci@nmiretirement.com. Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked “JVA11-003 Confidential” and have applicant’s name and return address on the outside of the envelope. Please address submissions to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

110 mph winds damage homes in Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Winds that reached estimated speeds of 110 miles per hour in central Mississippi damaged more than 40 homes as severe storms dumped large hail and heavy rain flooded roads, officials said Wednesday. There were no immediate reports of injuries. A line of severe thunderstorms was sweeping across the Southeast, and there was a report of a tornado and several suspected twisters in Florida, but there was no damage or injuries. Daniel Lamb, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Jackson, said officials went to Simpson County to determine if it was a tornado that hit the area. Three homes there were destroyed and 40 others were damaged, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said.

Whale that killed trainer returns to SeaWorld show

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The killer whale that drowned a female trainer at Orlando's SeaWorld flawlessly performed Wednesday for the first time since last year's death, wowing thousands amid heightened safety that included a steel bar protecting the orca's trainers. Tilikum participated without incident in the marine park's signature "Believe" show for the first time since dragging 40-year-old Dawn Brancheau from poolside by her pony tail and drowning her during a performance Feb. 24, 2010. Trainers on the platform stood Wednesday behind the stout metal bar shaped as an inverted "U" that was designed to prevent a whale from coming up out of the pool and biting and dragging a trainer into the water.

FAA: 2 killed aboard small plane that hits NC home

HIGH POINT, N.C. (AP)—Authorities say two people are dead after their small plane crashed into a house in North Carolina. Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen says both people aboard the aircraft were killed Wednesday when it struck a house in High Point. She says the plane was flying in the state from Wilmington to Winston-Salem when it was diverted by bad weather. Bergen says the plane crashed in an area short of the runway at Piedmont Triad International Airport. Neighbors told The Associated Press the home's residents fled out the front.

Ohio House OKs collective bargaining limits

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A bill that would limit collective bargaining rights for 350,000 Ohio public workers cleared the Republican-controlled House on Wednesday, one of its final hurdles before it goes to the governor of the labor-stronghold state.

Chants of "Shame on you!" from onlookers broke out immediately after the full House approved the measure on a 53-44 vote. It was possible a vote in the GOP-controlled Senate,

which narrowly approved an earlier version of the legislation, would soon follow.

About 150 protesters started to gather in the Senate chamber, singing "We shall not moved" and chanting "Power to the people!"

The legislation is in some ways tougher than Wisconsin's, as it would extend union restrictions to police officers and firefighters. But its reception in Ohio has paled in intensity with the raucous fight in Wisconsin, where

tens of thousands of people demonstrated against a similar bill.

On Wednesday, an estimated 700 people went to the Ohio Statehouse to hear the debate.

The Ohio measure affects safety workers, teachers, nurses and a host of other government personnel. It allows unions to negotiate wages but not health care, sick time or pension benefits. It gets rid of automatic pay increases, and replaces them with merit raises or perfor-

mance pay. Workers would also be banned from striking.

Republican Gov. John Kasich has said his \$55.5 billion, two-year state budget counts on unspecified savings from lifting union protections to fill an \$8 billion hole. The first-term governor and his GOP colleagues argue the bill would help city officials and superintendents better control their costs at a time when they too are feeling budget woes.

First Mercury images in orbit show lots of craters

NEW YORK (AP)—Think the moon has many craters? New photos from the first spacecraft to orbit Mercury show the tiny inner planet has far more impressive battle scars from regular high-speed peltings by space rocks.

NASA's Messenger spacecraft, which began orbiting the planet less than two weeks ago, reveals a pock-marked planet full of craters from pieces of asteroids and comets.

"Mercury has had an exposed surface for at least 3.5 to 4 billion years and some of those surfaces are extremely cratered to the point where there are so many craters they start to obscure one another," said mission chief scientist Sean Solomon.

He said it was surprising how



AP

This image provided by NASA shows bright rays, consisting of impact ejecta and secondary craters, spread across this NAC image and radiate from Debussy crater, located at the top.

many secondary craters there are. Those are craters created by the falling soil kicked up from space rock collisions.

Those initial space rock crashes "throw out a lot of material in the explosive process," Solomon said.

One area of the far north of Mercury had never been seen by previous spacecraft on mere fly-bys. The new images show scatterings of secondary craters, almost like a loaded pizza, but not the primary crater that was first carved out. The region is also so far north that the sun barely gets above the horizon and casts long shadows.

"It's heavily cratered," Solomon said Wednesday. "It may have happened on a particularly bad day."



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-028 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic System (SPS) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation SPS facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational SPS Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The Scope-of-Services will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **May 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Building, Lower Base Industrial Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-11-028 'Solar Photovoltaic Generation'**" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **June 14, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction two (2) boats on Friday, April 15, 2011. The boats may be inspected at the CDA Office parking lot in Gualo Rai.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

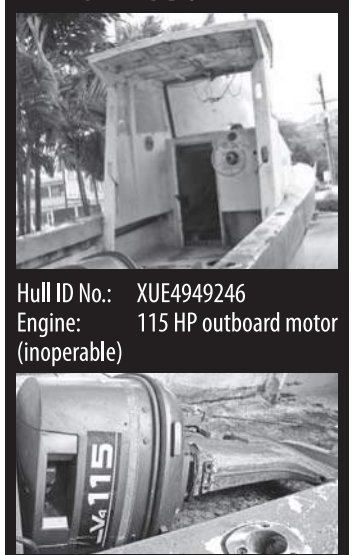
1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CDA Conference Room, Second Floor on Friday, April 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.**
4. Full payment is due on the day of auction and before the boat(s) can be removed from the premises. Buyer is responsible for removing purchased item(s);
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa only) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

/S/ **MANUELA SABLAN**
Executive Director

20' WHITE FIBERGLASS BOAT & TRAILER



22' FISHING BOAT



Certificate No.: CM-932-CP
Year: 1994
Hull ID: OCP20736G394
Propulsion Use: OB
Engine 1: G03251444
Engine 2: G03212658
Engine Size: Twin
Fuel: Gas
Capacity: 8 persons

Asia

Higher radiation found outside Japan nuclear plant

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and
SHINO YUASA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—New readings show radiation levels continue to rise in the ocean outside a leaking nuclear plant in Japan's north-east, officials said Thursday, as they debated whether to broaden the evacuation zone around the tsunami-damaged facility.

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said it was looking into a report from the U.N. atomic agency about high levels of radiation in the village of Iitate, 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the plant in Fukushima prefecture.

The International Atomic

Energy Agency said the level in one spot tested in Iitate was twice its suggested threshold for evacuation.

NISA spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama said officials were checking radiation levels in the village, which lies outside even a voluntary evacuation area 19 miles (30 kilometers) from the plant. He said most residents have left, but about 100 have chosen to stay.

"We take it seriously," he said Thursday. "We may consider asking these people to evacuate. But we need more time to study the situation." People in a 12-mile (20-kilometer) radius around the plant have already been ordered to leave their homes.

Experts say the spike does not pose an immediate danger to human health, but evacuation recommendations tend to be conservative to prevent long-term exposure to any elevation in radiation levels.

Operations continued Thursday to cool down the dangerously overheated Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, which has leaked radiation after being damaged in the March 11 quake and tsunami.

The mission to stabilize the plant, 140 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo, has become more complicated since the discovery a week ago that radioactive water is pooling inside, restricting the areas in

which crews can work.

It also puts emergency crews in the uncomfortable position of having to pump in more water to continue cooling the reactor while simultaneously pumping out contaminated water.

French nuclear officials who are experts of the removal of such radiation have recently

arrived to help out, and the IAEA is also sending experts. On Thursday, President Nicolas Sarkozy of France was arriving in Tokyo on Thursday for talks with Japanese counterpart Naoto Kan. His nation currently holds the presidency of the Group of 20 leading world economies.

Contamination from the plant has been seeping into the sea, posing no threat to human health

because fishing and swimming aren't allowed in the vicinity but sparking concern about the continued leaks, Nishiyama said.

However, radiation levels are rising. Seawater some 360 yards (330 meters) from the shore south of the plant measured 4,385 times the legal limit, up from 3,355 times the allowed amount the previous day, officials from plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Landslide buries alive 3 miners in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say a landslide triggered by heavy rains has buried alive three miners who were resting in their bunkhouse in the southern Philippines. Civil defense officer Roy Dorado said Thursday that two other miners were slightly injured at the same site in South Cotabato province's T'boli township when rushing floodwater eroded a portion of the road they were standing on and swept them away. He says that heavy rains late Wednesday eroded soil on a slope near the miners' rest house outside a tunnel. Village leaders have ordered residents to evacuate. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Lyndon Paniza says officials are checking if anyone has been trapped in the mining tunnels.

Floods trigger southern Thai landslides; 15 dead

BANGKOK (AP)—Southern Thailand faced more torrential rain after heavy downpours caused at least 15 deaths and forced the Thai navy to help evacuate hundreds of tourists stranded on some of the country's famous resort islands. Authorities reported Wednesday that at least four people had died in land-

slides in Krabi province, bringing to 15 the death toll in the flood-battered region. More than 100 people were injured, and dozens missing. With access to some of the seven villages hit by landslides difficult and much of the region's telephone service cut off, it was feared the actual death toll was higher.

Myanmar's junta is 'dissolved' as govt sworn in

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's junta was officially disbanded Wednesday after handing over power to a new so-called civilian government, the latest phase of a transition to democracy that has been widely criticized as a sham. The closed-door inauguration of the new government was announced only after it took place, in keeping with the secretive style of Myanmar's military regimes of the past 50 years. Despite the handover, key figures in the former junta including leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe are expected to retain substantial hold over power. State television and radio reported that the new government headed by President Thein Sein was sworn in by parliament in the remote capital of Naypyitaw. Thein Sein was the junta's prime minister and a top member of the previous military government.



Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188 • Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacific.net • Web: <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net>

IMMEDIATE JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT

Mount Carmel School, a Catholic 1st through 12 grades is accepting applications for the position of Accountant. Mount Carmel School enrolls over 300 students with over 20 professional faculty and staff, and is fully accredited by the Western Accreditation of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Applicants for the position will assume the responsibility of an Accountant situated at the Business Office of the school, assist in the day to day operation of the Business Office, and other business transactions of the Business Office as assigned.

Pay Level/Step: V Step 01-05

Per Annum: \$17,000.00-\$19,133.65

Minimum Requirement: Graduation from accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree preferably in Accounting.

Closing Date: Until Filled

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school's website at <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net> Required documents must be attached to complete application forms (1) Official copy of diploma/degree or Official transcripts, (2) FBI Clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed), (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction of residence within the last three months), (4) resume. Completed applications and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School Attn: Margaret C. Delacruz, President, P. O. Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950, telephone number (670) 235-1201/3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Since 1952, continuing a tradition of Faith, Excellence, and Success.

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges



Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

"REPLACEMENT OF PUMP SYSTEM AT NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING"

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB# RF11-003)

OPENING DATE: April 1, 2011

CLOSING DATE: April 25, 2011

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is soliciting sealed bids for Replacement of the Pump System at the Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The bid documents and scope of work package is available beginning on Friday, April 1, 2011 at the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Building.

There will be a pre-bid conference on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Building Conference Room, Capitol Hill Saipan. Questions regarding the project may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 664-8080 or emailed to Ray Ada at adars@nmiretirement.com no later than April 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked IFB RF11-003 and submitted with one (1) original and three (3) copies to the Richard Villagomez, Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund, PO Box 501247, Isa Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands not later than 10:00 am, local time, April 25, 2011. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside of the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 10:00 a.m. local time April 26, 2011 at the Fund Conference Room by the Administrator.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Administrator no later than 10:00 am local time on April 25, 2011 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-8080 or email to administrator01@nmiretirement.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 25, 2011 and must be received no later than May 2, 2011 in which case all bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

/s/ Richard S. Villagomez

World

Gadhafi's forces adapt to airstrikes, pound rebels

AJDABIYA, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's ground forces recaptured a strategic oil town Wednesday and moved within striking distance of another major eastern city, nearly reversing the gains rebels made since international airstrikes began. Rebels pleaded for more help, while a U.S. official said government forces are making themselves harder to target by using civilian "battle wagons" with makeshift armaments instead of tanks.

Western powers kept up the pressure to force Gadhafi out with new airstrikes in other parts of Libya, hints that they may arm the opposition and intense negotiations behind the scenes to find a country to give haven to Libya's leader of more than 40 years.

Gadhafi's justice and interior ministers resigned shortly after the uprising began last month, but Koussa would be the first high-profile resignation since the international air campaign began.

Airstrikes have neutralized

Gadhafi's air force and pounded his army, but his ground forces remain far better armed, trained and organized than the opposition.

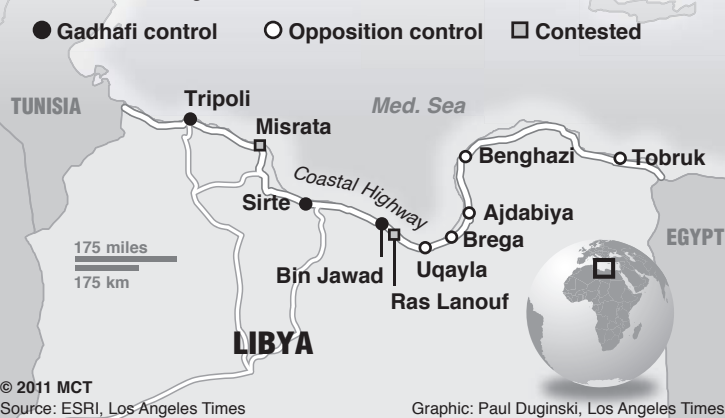
The shift in momentum back to the government's side is hardening a U.S. view that the poorly equipped opposition is probably incapable of prevailing without decisive Western intervention—either an all-out U.S.-led military assault on regime forces or a decision to arm the rebels.

NATO is in the process of taking over control of the airstrikes, which began as a U.S.-led operation. Diplomats said they have given approval for the commander of the NATO operation, Canadian Gen. Charles Bouchard, to announce a handover on Thursday.

Gadhafi's forces have adopted a new tactic in light of the pounding airstrikes have given their tanks and armored vehicles, a senior U.S. intelligence official said. They've left some of those weapons behind

Rebel retreat

Overmatched rebels retreated Tuesday from Bin Jawad to Ras Lanouf, which came under government assault.



in favor of a "gaggle" of "battle wagons": minivans, sedans and SUVs fitted with weapons, said the official, who spoke anonymously in order to discuss sensitive U.S. intelligence on the condition and capabilities of rebel and regime forces.

Rebel fighters also said Gadhafi's troops were increasingly using civilian vehicles in battle.

The change not only makes it harder to distinguish Gadhafi's forces from the rebels, it also requires less logistical support, the official said.

The official said airstrikes have degraded Gadhafi's forces

since they were launched March 19, but the regime forces still outmatch those of the opposition "by far," and few members of Gadhafi's military have defected lately.

The disparity was obvious as government forces pushed back rebels about 100 miles (160 kilometers) in just two days. The rebels had been closing in on the strategic city of Sirte, Gadhafi's hometown and a bastion of support for the longtime leader, but under heavy shelling they retreated from Bin Jawwad on Tuesday and from the oil port of Ras Lanouf on Wednesday.

UK: Libya's foreign minister to resign

LONDON (AP)—Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa arrived in Britain on Wednesday and is resigning from his post, Britain's government said. Koussa arrived from Tunisia at Farnborough Airport, about 35 miles southwest of London, the Foreign Office said in a statement, adding that he traveled to Britain under his own free will. "He has told us that he is resigning his post," the statement said. "We are discussing this with him and we will release further details in due course." Moussa Ibrahim, a Libyan government spokesman, denied that the foreign minister has defected saying he was in London on a "diplomatic mission."

Uganda says it would welcome Libya's Gadhafi

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The list of countries where Moammar Gadhafi might spend a comfortable life in exile is a lot shorter today than it would have been in years past because of global monetary sanctions and possible trial at the International Criminal Court. Uganda's deposed dictator, Idi Amin, found refuge first in Libya and eventually in Saudi Arabia in 1980, living in his own villa with female companionship, food and drink. In a twist of fate, Uganda said Wednesday it would accept Libya's leader, the first country to publicly volunteer to give him a home. The Uganda president's spokesman justified the offer of refuge, saying that Ugandans were given asylum in neighboring countries during the rule of Amin, who killed tens of thousands of his countrymen in the 1970s.

CIA sends teams to Libya; US mulls aid for rebels

WASHINGTON (AP)—The CIA has sent small teams of operatives into Libya and helped rescue a crew member of a U.S. fighter jet that crashed, and the White House said Wednesday it was assessing "all types of assistance" for rebels battling Moammar Gadhafi's troops. Lawmakers, in private briefings with top Obama administration officials, asked tough questions about the cost of the military operation and expressed concern about the makeup of the rebels. Members of Congress quoted officials as saying the U.S. military role would be limited, and heard President Barack Obama's director of national intelligence compare the rebel forces to a "pick-up basketball team."

In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

†Elizabeth Blanco Matsunaga

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries and most especially at the Mass of Christian Burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Off the Wall

375-lb shark leaps into Texas fisherman's boat

FREEPORT, Texas (AP)—It's the catch of a lifetime, but it's not clear whether a Texas fisherman landed an 8-foot shark or it landed him.

Jason Kresse, 29, of Freeport, and two crew members had been fishing for red snapper about 50 miles into the Gulf of Mexico and were dumping fish guts into the water about 3:45 a.m. Monday when they heard two big splashes in the distance.

"All of a sudden something hit the side of the boat," Kresse told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "He ends up landing on the back of the boat."

The mako shark had apparently been in a rush to feed. It began thrashing around, and Kresse said he and his crew couldn't get close to the 375-pound fish to toss it back in the water. It damaged the boat before dying several hours later.

Kresse, who has been fishing since he was a child, said the unplanned catch was a shock. Just unloading it was a challenge because it was so heavy.

"We had to use a forklift to get it off the boat when we got to the dock," Kresse said.



In this photo provided March 29, 2011, by Jason Kresse shows Kresse with a 375-pound, 8-foot long mako shark at a dock in Freeport, Texas.

The crew didn't have a permit to catch sharks, so Kresse contacted federal fisheries officials on shore to get one. Mike Cox, a spokesman with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said there's no violation because the shark's death was an accident.

The shark is on display at a seafood business in Freeport, about 55 miles south of Houston.

"I'm going to get a mount of it," Kresse said. "A fish jumping in your boat, 400 pounds, that's unbelievable."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Pa. trucker saved from choking by crash

READING, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania trucker may have saved his own life with an unintentional and very elaborate Heimlich maneuver. Police say 55-year-old Richard Paylor, of Fairless Hills, Bucks County, was eating an apple as he drove on a busy highway in Reading when he began choking Tuesday morning. Authorities say Paylor then lost consciousness and crashed through a concrete median. The Reading Eagle reports investigators believe the apple was dislodged when Paylor smacked his chest against the steering wheel. Police recovered a chunk of apple from the dashboard. Investigators spoke with doctors who backed up their conclusion that the accident dislodged the offending fruit.

NJ bakery blows top, dusts town in flour

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. (AP)—People might have thought they were part of a recipe when a northern New Jersey bakery blew its top and shot a cloud of flour over cars and buildings. Acting Englewood Fire Chief Gerald Marion says a pipe became loose at the top of the La Esperanza Bakery silo as flour was being pumped into the building on Tuesday. Some people thought there was an explosion as flour filled the air and coated several adjacent build-

ings. A spokesman for the bakery told The Record newspaper it lost probably less than 10 bags of flour from the 20,000 pounds that were being delivered. The pipe has been resealed.

Rare tortoise missing from Colo. Springs zoo

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—A rare tortoise has disappeared from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs and authorities think he may have been stolen. Zookeepers say they last saw 13-year-old Butti on Monday afternoon in The Loft, a hands-on exhibit where visitors can handle Butti and his brother Tutti. Officials say someone might have walked off with the Indian Star tortoise—he's the size of a grapefruit and weighs about a pound. The Colorado Springs Gazette reported Tuesday that zookeepers are most concerned about Butti's health because he requires a special diet of certain vegetables. Indian Star tortoises typically live 10 to 15 years. Butti has a history of upper respiratory infections. Without his caretakers, he might develop gastrointestinal problems, osteoporosis or kidney failure.

Greece nabs potato thieves from Bulgaria

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—The farmer had to stay up at night to guard his field, and get help from police, but he's finally

stopped the foreign marauders who were stealing his potatoes. Five men and four women from neighboring Bulgaria were arrested early Sunday while digging up and loading 800 kilograms (1,760 pounds) of stolen potatoes into a van in Ochyro, a village in northern Greece near the Bulgarian border, police say. The farmer, who was keeping an overnight watch for the thieves, got help from police and border guards after he lost 14 metric tons (15.3 tons) of potatoes the previous week. More than 200 empty potato sacks and digging forks were found in the van and confiscated. Police are now looking for other thieves in the region—these ones targeting olive groves.

Welsh 'Hitler House' causes Internet stir

LONDON (AP)—An unassuming semi-detached house in Wales has become an unlikely Web star after Internet users decided that it looks a lot like Adolf Hitler's face. The Swansea home's tan-colored, four-window facade stared out from British tabloid newspapers Wednesday following heavy distribution on social networking sites. Its resemblance to the dictator's face is debatable. The lintel above its door vaguely echoes the Nazi dictator's toothbrush mustache, with the black sloping roof reminiscent of Hitler's side-parted hair.

Science & Technology

Tips for using Google for travel information

BY ANNE WALLACE ALLEN
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Internet offers vast resources for travelers, but don't overlook one of the most basic sources of information: Google.

The search box on the Google home page puts all sorts of information at your fingertips without requiring you to go to separate websites.

Wondering about the weather where you're going? Type the name of any city or zip code in the search box with the word "weather." You'll get the current temperature and conditions, plus a four-day forecast.

If you simply type "weather" with no city, you'll get the weather for wherever you are

— for example, outside your hotel room if you're already in your destination.

Google also offers instant currency conversions. In the main Google search box, simply type the amount and type of currency and you'll get an instant conversion to dollars, unless you specify some other currency. So, type in "200 euros," and you'll get a conversion to \$280.16 (depending on the day's rates), without having to go to a currency conversion website.

You can track flights through Google searches too, again without going to another website. Type "AF 22" in the search box and the following result pops up: "Track status of AF 22 from Paris (CDG) to New York (JFK)," with information about

Air France flight number 22's departure and arrival time.

World time can be instantly accessed as well. Type "time Athens" or "Athens time" into the search box and the current time for Athens, Greece, appears.

Google Maps offers a wealth of information. Type a place name into the Google Maps search box, click on the result that matches your destination, and you'll get a map on the right hand side of the page and photos on the left. You can click for directions or, under "More," get the mesmerizing "Street View." Street View is available in 25 countries, but there are still some places where you'll have to stick with still photos, like Darwin, Australia.

Google adds button to endorse search results, ads

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. likes the way Facebook gets people to share their recommendations so much that it's adding its own option for endorsing search results and online ads.

The "+1" button announced Wednesday represents the Internet search leader's latest attempt to make it easier for its users to share their insights with their online contacts, formed through other Google services such as Gmail.

Someone who wants to

endorse a particular search term or an ad simply hits the +1 button. When people in that person's Internet circle uses the same search term or sees the same ad, they'll see the person's endorsement next to it.

In another Facebook imitation, Google also will allow other websites to place the +1 button next to their content.

Google hopes to benefit from its version of Facebook's "Like" button by making its search results

more relevant and its ads more tempting to click.

If enough people use the recommendation button, the number of endorsements for links eventually could influence the order of some search results, said Matt Cutts, a Google's principal search engineer.

The +1 button initially will begin appearing next to search results and ads for a relatively small number of Google users. Anyone who wants the +1 feature sooner can sign up at <http://www.google.com/experimental>.



How to read all sorts of e-mail attachments

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I use Microsoft Works with Windows Vista, but I'm unable to open some documents sent to me via Yahoo e-mail, which, at least in one case, have been in .gif format. Is there something I can do to put these attachments in a readable format? Would buying Microsoft Word solve the problem?—Faye Herold, St. Paul, Minn.

ANSWER: Microsoft Word can't read .gif files, which contain images or animations rather than text. In Windows Vista, .gif files can be viewed in Internet Explorer, which you already have.

The easiest way to do that is to download the .gif attachment to your PC's Desktop (main screen), then open it from that location with IE by going to File, Open, Browse and on the left choose Desktop. Then double-click the icon of the picture.

Alternatively, you could download the free IrfanView program (see tinyurl.com/4um8vn6), which is recommended by technology website CNet and reads dozens of image and video file formats, including .gif.

Word might be able to help if you receive other types of text-based files that your software can't read. But before you buy Word, compare the list of file types that it can read (see tinyurl.com/476jz5y) with the file types you're receiving as e-mail attachments.

Depending on what attachments you receive, you might be able to get by with the free Microsoft

Word Viewer that reads, prints and copies several types of files. (See tinyurl.com/3x9thjy.)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Q: While I was staying at my Florida condo, I could use Wi-Fi on my laptop. But I couldn't send e-mails via Outlook Express and had to use Facebook instead.

I received an error message that said to "reset my ISP SMTP." My Minnesota Internet service provider (ISP) is Mncable.net in Thief River Falls, and in Florida, it's Comcast. What do I need to change on my laptop settings so I can send e-mails through another ISP?—Susan Jennings, Roseau, Minn.

A: SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) refers to the settings on the cable company computer server that handles your outgoing e-mail. Those settings vary from one cable company, or ISP, to another, so you need to adjust software settings on Outlook Express.

For the settings Comcast uses, see tinyurl.com/ybw845f. To return to the settings used by MnCable.net, see tinyurl.com/69436xx.

If you'd rather not change your Outlook Express settings, you could switch to a free Web e-mail account on Google, Yahoo or Hotmail. Like Facebook, those services can be accessed anywhere without altering software settings.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style



English tabby a purrfect purring machine

LONDON (AP)—No need to bell this cat: A gray-and-white tabby by the name of Smokey has cat-apulted to fame with purring so loud it has been recorded at a potentially record-setting 73 decibels.

The British community college that measured the sound said it peaked at 16 times louder than that of the average cat. By some estimates, that is about as noisy as busy traffic, a hair dryer or a vacuum cleaner.

The 12-year-old, ordinary-size feline first came to national attention last month when her owner, Ruth Adams, decided to run a local competition for the most powerful purr. That led to a local radio show appearance,

In this handout photo released by Northampton College, Smokey, a gray and white tabby cat prepares to receive a treat from owner Ruth Adams, in Northampton, England.

AP

and from there, media coverage snowballed, with the tabloids full of headlines like “Thundercat” and “Rumpuss.”

“Sometimes she purrs so loudly it makes her cough and splutter,” Adams said on a website devoted to the cat, which was rescued from a shelter about three years ago. Smokey “even manages to purr while she eats.”

Hoping to see Smokey recognized as top cat, Adams asked Northampton College in central England to provide the equipment needed to submit a world-record application. Last week, the college dispatched a team with specialized sound equipment to record Smokey purr-

ing in the comfort of the family home in the village of Pitsford, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) northwest of London.

The recording has been submitted to Guinness World Records, the college said.

Seventy-three decibels is louder than ordinary conversation, which is generally around 60 to 70 dB. On a video posted on the website, the purring sounded like the cooing of an angry dove.

Guinness World Records spokeswoman Amarilis Whitty said she is eagerly awaiting the recording.

While Smokey may have gotten used to the attention, the Adams household seems to be

getting a little sick of it all.

“Oh, God, you’re not the only caller,” said a man who answered the phone at the home Wednesday. He then hung up.

Cats purr by moving the muscles in their throats and diaphragm. But precisely why they do it is a matter of debate. Cats can purr when they are pleased—for example, when they are stroked—but they also purr under stress. Some scientists believe that purring has a social or even a healing function.

“She is LOUD VERY LOUD and keeps going,” Adams said on the website, adding: “She is one very happy pussycat and wants to tell the whole world how happy she is.”

‘Idol’ finalists ignite Elton John classics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Durbin literally lit up the “American Idol” stage.

The flashy 22-year-old rocker from Santa Cruz, Calif., was accompanied by a flaming piano for “Saturday Night’s Alright for Fighting” during an evening of Elton John classics on the Fox talent competition Wednesday. Jennifer Lopez told Durbin that she forgot it was a contest while he was wailing atop the red piano before it was set ablaze.

“The one thing I was worried about was having a Pepsi moment,” a hairsprayed Durbin revealed afterward, referencing Michael Jackson’s noggin infamously catching on fire during the filming of a 1984 Pepsi commercial.

Casey Abrams, the 20-year-old film camp counselor from Idyllwild, Calif., who was saved from elimination by the panel last week, impressed the judges

with a tender rendition of “Your Song.” Lopez told Abrams that she didn’t lose any sleep over voting to use the one-time-only power to overturn viewers’ votes, forcing two singers to be dismissed this week.

“You sing different every time, and I love that about you because that shows you’re a true artist,” Steven Tyler said.

A pair of singers gratified with their signature growls. Randy Jackson declared Scotty McCreery, the 17-year-old high school student from Garner, N.C., was “in the zone” following “Country Comfort,” and proclaimed Haley Reinhart, the 20-year-old college student from Wheeling, Ill., had the night’s best performance after closing with “Benie and the Jets.”

“You sing sexy,” Tyler told Reinhart.

Jacob Lusk, the 23-year-old spa concierge from Compton, Calif., and Pia Toscano, the 22-

year-old make-up artist from Howard Beach, N.Y., both received positive feedback from the judges despite respectively turning in yet another slow-tempo routine. Lusk gleamed with “Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word,” and Toscano shined on “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me.”

“The notes take us to an otherworldly place,” Lopez told Toscano.

Naima Adedapo, the funky 26-year-old dance instructor from Milwaukee, didn’t have Lopez or Jackson on her side for her reggae rendition of “I’m Still Standing.” Lopez said she wasn’t sure if that was the right song for Adeapo, while Jackson was more blunt in his assessment: He called it “kinda corny.” Adedapo didn’t seem fazed by their criticism.

“What’s for you is for you, and what’s for me is for me,” Adedapo responded.

Britney sued for \$10M over fragrance deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A brand marketing company that brokered a deal for Britney Spears’ fragrance line sued the singer and her father Wednesday, claiming the pair secured a new deal that stinks to the tune of more than \$10 million.

Brand Sense Partners LLC’s lawsuit claims the pair renegotiated a royalties deal with cosmetics company Elizabeth Arden last year that cut them out of their 35 percent commission on the fragrance line.

According to the lawsuit, the company first began working with the singer in 2003 and brokered the perfume deal in 2004.

The lawsuit claims Spears and her father, Jamie, negoti-

ated a new deal last year for the singer’s newest perfume scent called Radiance. The lawsuit states the agreement directly between the singer and cosmetics company directly violates the original deal with Brand Sense.

The marketing company is seeking more than \$10 million and punitive damages and is asking a judge to rule that it is entitled to a 35 percent commission on all lines of Spears’ perfumes created by Elizabeth Arden.

Spears’ publicist, Jeff Raymond, did not immediately return an email message seeking comment. The lawsuit was first reported Wednesday by celebrity website RadarOnline.com.

Jamie Spears controls his

daughter’s financial affairs along with an attorney as part of a court-ordered conservatorship established in 2008 after a series of high-profile incidents of erratic behavior and hospitalizations.

The conservatorship has generally granted Spears a form of legal immunity. Although she’s been sued by former bodyguards and an ex-manager, a judge has so far ruled that she cannot be deposed or ordered to testify.

It has been a rocky week for Spears, who debuted her seventh studio album, “Femme Fatale,” on Tuesday. She also announced a tour with Latin singer Enrique Iglesias, who said later on that he would not be performing with the “Hold It Against Me” singer.

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Hop

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:05	

James Marsden, Russell Brand
 Children's/Family • Rated PG

Synopsis
 The comic tale of Fred (James Marsden), an out-of-work slacker who accidentally injures the Easter Bunny (voiced by Russell Brand) and must take him in as he recovers. As Fred struggles with the world's worst houseguest, both will learn what it takes to finally grow up.

Source Code

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan
 Science fiction, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
 When decorated soldier Captain Colter Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) wakes up in the body of an unknown man, he discovers he's part of a mission to find the bomber of a Chicago commuter train. In an assignment unlike any he's ever known, he learns he's part of a government experiment called the "Source Code," a program that enables him to cross over into another man's identity in the last 8 minutes of his life.

Sucker Punch

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Emily Browning, Abbie Cornish
 Action, Fantasy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
 Zack Snyder presents a hyper-violent spin on Alice in Wonderland for his directorial follow-up to Watchmen with this Cruel and Unusual Films production for Warner Bros. The plot details the action-packed fantasy world of a mental patient (Emily Browning), who escapes from her reality to deal with her abusive stepfather.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Limitless

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
 Thriller, Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Battle: Los Angeles

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
 Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Red Riding Hood

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Amanda Seyfried, Gary Oldman
 Horror • Rated PG 13

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Taylor Swift celebrates 20M sales in London

LONDON (AP)—Taylor Swift ended her European tour on a celebratory note: Not only did she perform in front of thousands of fans, she got an honor for reaching the 20 million mark in worldwide album sales.

A giddy Swift was given a plaque commemorating the milestone before her sold-out concert Wednesday night at the O2 Arena.

"It's just sort of beyond my comprehension to get a plaque like that, and the fact the fans have done that much for me in such a short period of time is unreal, and I'm so excited and so thankful," she told The Associated Press after the presentation.

The 21-year-old Grammy-winner released her latest multiplatinum effort, "Speak Now," last fall. It's just the third album of her young career.

She launched an international tour this year that took her to Asia and Europe. It wrapped up with her London concert. She called the trek a "life-changing experience."

"I couldn't think of a more perfect way to end this European run. I've gotten to experience

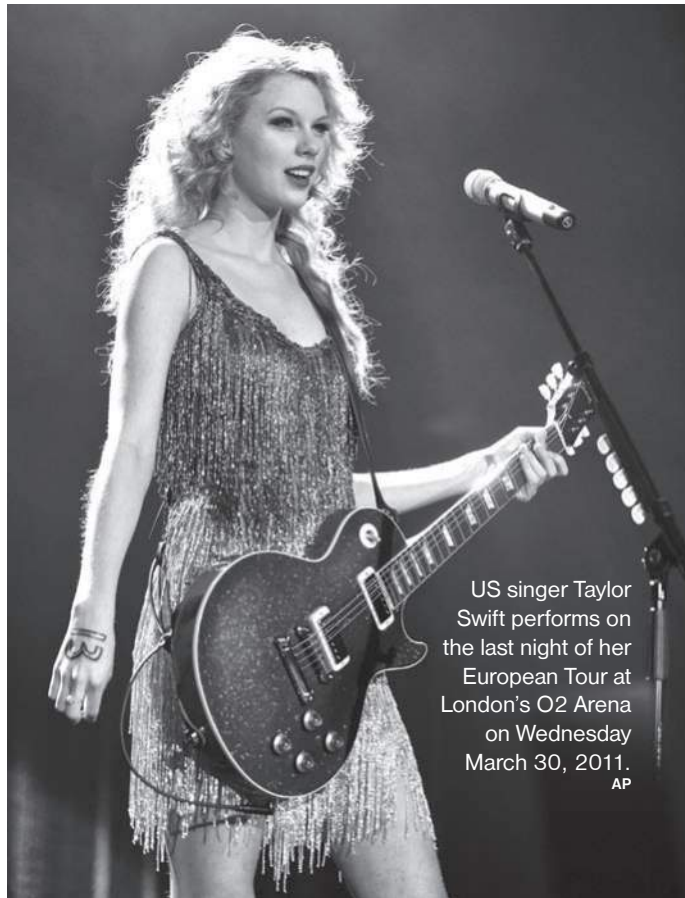
just parts of the world I never thought I'd get to see, nonetheless play shows in and have the crowds singing the words back

to me," she said.

She spent much of her downtime sight-seeing—and shopping. "I got so much stuff; I don't

know how I'm going to get it home with me," she said of one of her London antique shopping sprees.

Swift is due to start her North American tour in Omaha, Neb., on May 27. She'll be in Nashville on Sunday for the Academy of Country Music awards, where she's set to perform. She's also up for four awards, including entertainer of the year.



US singer Taylor Swift performs on the last night of her European Tour at London's O2 Arena on Wednesday March 30, 2011. AP

Depp has more 'Pirates' adventures on the horizon

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Johnny Depp's tour guide on his "Pirates of the Caribbean" voyages is plotting the course for a fifth installment even before the fourth movie sails into theaters.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer says he has a screenplay in the works for a fifth "Pirates" tale after May's "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" comes out.

Based on the Disney theme-park ride, the original three "Pirates" blockbusters ended up as a trilogy continuing the same key characters and story line. Bruckheimer says "On Stranger Tides" and future "Pirates" flicks will be stand-alone stories continuing the adventures of Depp's woozy buccaneer Capt. Jack Sparrow.

Directed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago"), "On Stranger Tides" sends Jack on a quest for the fountain of youth. Bruckheimer and Marshall showed off footage Tuesday at CinemaCon,

a Las Vegas convention of theater owners.

At test screenings of "On Stranger Tides," "the audience told us what they loved about it is that it was fresh, it was new, it was a whole new story," Bruckheimer said in an interview alongside Marshall. "So that will carry over into the next one, too, to give it something fresh and different. As long as the audience embraces this one, we'll certainly try to make another one. It's really up to Johnny. He loves the character."

Geoffrey Rush reprises his role as Jack's rival, Barbossa, who has switched sides, no longer a pirate but a privateer sailing on the orders of the British monarchy. Penelope Cruz co-stars as the fiery daughter of the pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane).

Marshall popped the question about co-starring in the "Pirates" sequel over dinner with Cruz while he was directing her

in the musical "Nine."

"She jumped out of her chair and said, 'Oh, my God. I'd love to. I've always wanted to do an adventure like this.' So it was perfect," Marshall said. "I had mentioned her to Jerry and Johnny, and immediately they said yes, that seems exactly right. Because there are not that many people that really can match him. He's so unique, and he has so many different characteristics. Charisma and sex appeal. He's funny and he's athletic and he's a strong actor. So who can match that?"

"On Stranger Tides" is the first "Pirates" flick shot with digital 3-D cameras. The filmmakers make good use of the 3-D imagery in action sequences, which include a shot where Cruz's character tries to stab Depp's Capt. Jack through a closed door, her sword leaping off the screen right at the audience.

Amy Adams lives out childhood dream as Lois Lane

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Amy Adams has played fairy-tale royalty in "Enchanted" and co-stars with the Muppets this fall. Now she's satisfying another girlhood fantasy: playing Lois Lane. Adams was cast last weekend as the tough reporter in the next Warner Bros. incarnation of "Superman," directed by Zack Snyder ("300") and starring British actor Henry Cavill ("The Tudors") in the title role.

"She's such a fantastic character," Adams said Tuesday at CinemaCon, a Las Vegas convention for theater owners, where she appeared with co-star Jason Segel to promote their family comedy "The Muppets," due out in November. "She's feminine, she's intelligent, she's a go-getter. She's somebody I have identified with since whenever."

"I'm like the luckiest girl in the world. I've gotten to be a princess, I've gotten to work with the Muppets. A lot of my childhood dreams about who I wanted to be when I was a grown-up, I at least get to play them in movies. And Lois Lane is one of them. So I'm just excited. I hope I bring something that people enjoy."

The studio aims to have the new "Superman" adventure in theaters late next year.



Adams

Man fears sock drawer mix-up will doom him to run in circles

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR READERS: It's April 1, the day I get to share some of the occasional letters I receive from folks who are pulling my leg. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 23 years is threatening to divorce me on the grounds that I'm "unreasonable." Is it unreasonable for me to attempt to keep my socks oriented to the proper feet? When I put my socks on the wrong feet, I run around in circles and become disoriented. I know women don't have this problem because they wear pantyhose—so it's impossible to put them on the wrong feet.

I sewed a bit of red yarn on the tops of my right socks so I could keep them straight. My wife says I'm crazy, but I insist, "Right on right; left on left."

So tell me, Abby—must I run in stupid circles and endure moments of disorientation and embarrassment? Or should I forgo the red yarn and hang in there with my wife to preserve our marriage?

DISTURBED KENTUCKY MAN

DEAR DISTURBED KENTUCKY MAN: And a happy April Fools' Day to you, too. The red yarn is preferable to the yarn you have spun for me. (It's also preferable to running in circles like a decapitated chicken.) And you're mistaken about women's pantyhose. Ask any woman who has put hers on backward.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm concerned about my youngest son, "Sammy." From the moment he gets up each day until the time he retires at night, he spends almost the entire time playing in the sandbox in our backyard.

My wife and I are alarmed by his bizarre behavior, and incidentally, so is his wife. What should we do?

WORRIED DAD IN GEORGIA

DEAR WORRIED DAD: Be sure to brush him off if he ever runs a marathon to prevent diaper rash.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Lately I've been having some strange dreams. I cannot explain how I come up with this stuff. The other night I had a doozy: whips, chains, whistles, yo-yos, circus midgits, a duck, a Romanian peasant woman, and my grandmother riding by on a bicycle giving me the finger. Please advise.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

DEAR CALIFORNIA DREAMIN': What a coincidence! I had that very same dream last night. Your grandmother sure gets around.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I hate bothering you because I know you're busy, but I have been getting the runaround from my TV provider. I have asked them repeatedly to send someone over to fix my set, but they keep saying it can be fixed by remote control. I've got a black screen and it just doesn't work. Can you come over to fix it?

MISSING JERRY SPRINGER IN PITTSBURGH

DEAR MISSING JERRY: I help people solve relationship problems, but the one you're having with your TV set does not qualify. Sorry.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I prefer to sleep facing in; my husband prefers to sleep facing out. My problem is when he's gassy—which is often—it puts me "in the line of fire." We've talked about how to deal with this problem, but haven't been able to come up with a solution. Any suggestions?

GAS TAXED IN NEWARK, DEL.

DEAR GAS TAXED: Yes. Switch sides!

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Schwarzenegger back in show biz with 'Governator'

NEW YORK (AP)—With his years as governor behind him, Arnold Schwarzenegger will soon return to his acting career with a new animated TV series. The planned action-comedy cartoon is called "The Governator," according to A Squared Entertainment, a partner in the venture. It will focus on a superhero living a double life as an ordinary family man. Schwarzenegger will provide the voice of the title character. Comic-book legend Stan Lee is another partner in the project, which will be officially an-

nounced Monday at the MIPTV trade show in Cannes, France. The series is planned as the first stage of a franchise that could also include comics and films.

Judge Judy hospitalized for undisclosed ailment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV's "Judge Judy" is hospitalized in Los Angeles for an undisclosed condition. A spokesman for 68-year-old Judy Sheindlin says the judge is "feeling much better" after being taken from her show taping by ambulance to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Wednesday. Publicist Gary Rosen says Sheindlin will be released from the hospital on

Thursday. Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Erik Scott confirmed that a female patient was taken from Sunset Bronson Studios to a local hospital after dispatchers received a 911 call about a medical emergency. She was admitted in serious condition. Sheindlin presides over small-claims cases on her syndicated show, "Judge Judy." Rosen says she will return to taping her show as scheduled on April 12.

Harassment suit against David Boreanaz dismissed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show a woman who appeared on the TV show "Bones"

has dismissed a sexual harassment lawsuit against the series' star David Boreanaz. Attorney Gloria Allred filed a dismissal of the case filed on behalf of Kristina Hagan on Monday. She wrote in an email that the case had been "resolved" but provided no further details. Hagan sued Boreanaz and 20th Century Fox Television in July for more than \$25,000 on sexual harassment and intentional infliction of emotional distress claims. She claimed the actor repeatedly tried to kiss and fondle her several times after she appeared as an extra on the show in August 2009. The actor's spokeswoman denied the allegations.

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 10-0173-CV
vs.	
FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO and BARBARA P. GUERRERO, Defendants.	NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 9th day of March, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to Defendants directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 014 D 09, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 014 D 01, the original of which was registered on December 3, 1976 as Document No. 5691 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
- Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
- Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MELANIE M. PELIGRINO-RONCALES, Petitioner,	FILED DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0173-FC
versus	SUMMONS
NESTOR B. RONCALES, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 1st day of April, 2010

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EVELYN G. ABABA-LINA, Petitioner,	FILED DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0526-FC
versus	SUMMONS
AMELITO E. LINA, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 14th day of October, 2010

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Fax: (670) 234-0885

Attorney for Petitioner
Eleanor A. Cepeda

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARIA NAKATSUKASA ALDAN, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0076
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NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TO: TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MARIA NAKATSUKASA ALDAN (DECEASED) OR OF HER ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AND YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ELEANOR A. CEPEDA of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of MARIA NAKATSUKASA ALDAN, Deceased. The hearing on the Petition for Appointment of Administrator and for Letters of Administration by ELEANOR A. CEPEDA, as Petitioner, has been set for April 26, 2011, at 1:30 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the above-entitled Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI.

All persons or entities having any interests or claims against the Deceased or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the Law Office of Antonette R. Villagomez, Tasi Lane, P.O. Box 501517, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 25th day of March 2011.

/s/ BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

Thunder hit franchise best monthly record



PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant and James Harden scored 22 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder completed the best regular-season month in franchise history with a 116-98 victory over the fading Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

Michael Westbrook added 16, Serge Ibaka 15 and Kendrick Perkins 13 as the Thunder won their fifth in a row, 11th in their last 12 and 50th of the season. Their 14-2 March was the best monthly record in franchise history. As the Seattle SuperSonics, they went 14-3 twice—in March of 1994 and November of 1996.

Vince Carter, now coming off the bench for Phoenix, scored 28 in the Suns' fourth straight loss. Three of Carter's top four scoring games for the Suns have come against Oklahoma City.

Referee Kenny Mauer threw out Suns reserves Aaron Brooks and Zabian Dowdell with 1:05 to play.

Oklahoma City outscored Phoenix 37-25 in the fourth quarter.

Phoenix trailed 55-51 at the half and never caught the Thunder after that.

The Suns cut it to one twice, the last time at 60-59 on Marcin Gortat's dunk. But Westbrook made a driving layup, Jared Dudley was called for an offensive foul, then Westbrook made a 7-foot runner and Oklahoma City led 64-59.

Collison's 20-footer with 6 seconds left put the Thunder up 79-73 after three quarters.

Harden sank a 3-pointer and had a three-point play sandwiched around Eric Manor's 3-pointer in a 8-2 spurt that put Oklahoma City up 87-77. Durant's 3-pointer with 5:18 remaining put the Thunder ahead 92-80 5:18 from the finish.

Oklahoma City outscored Phoenix 23-9 to start the final quarter to go up 102-82 after Perkins made four free throws in a row.

Heat 123, Wizards 107

In Washington, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat had a surprisingly tough time against the lowly Wizards—even after No. 1 draft pick John Wall was ejected.

James finished with 35 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, Wade had 33 points and nine assists, and Chris Bosh scored 26, helping Miami get past Washington 123-107 Wednesday night and avoid what would have been a second consecutive embarrassing loss.

Washington was left without its best player when Wall and two Miami reserves—Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Juwan Howard—were kicked out of the game. The Heat led by as many as 13 before the Wizards managed to

make it a one-point game in the fourth quarter. But Wade immediately responded with a three-point play, and Washington never again got closer than two.

The brouhaha involving Wall came with 8:48 remaining in the first half—and with Washington actually ahead, 37-36. The 6-foot-4 Wall moved out to play tight defense on 7-3 center Ilgauskas near the 3-point arc. While protecting the ball, Ilgauskas appeared to elbow Wall in the face at least once. Wall responded by swinging his right hand at Ilgauskas.

Wall and Ilgauskas each was assessed a flagrant foul-2 and ejected.

The game was delayed by more than 10 minutes while officials huddled around a TV to watch replays. Eventually, Wall and Ilgauskas each was assessed a flagrant foul-2 and ejected. Howard was called for a technical foul and ejected for escalation; McGee was called for a technical but allowed to stay in the game.

Wall high-fived fans as he walked from the court to the home locker room, ejected for the second time from an NBA game. It also happened Feb. 4, when he was called for two technical fouls in a loss to the Orlando Magic.

Mavericks 106, Clippers 100

In Los Angeles, Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Dallas Mavericks rallied in the fourth quarter to improve the NBA's best road record to 27-10 with its fifth straight win.

Nowitzki missed the first of two free throws midway through the period, snapping his streak of 74 in a row—longest in the league this season—that dated to March 4.

Blake Griffin had 25 points and 17 rebounds for his 57th double-double of the season for Los Angeles.

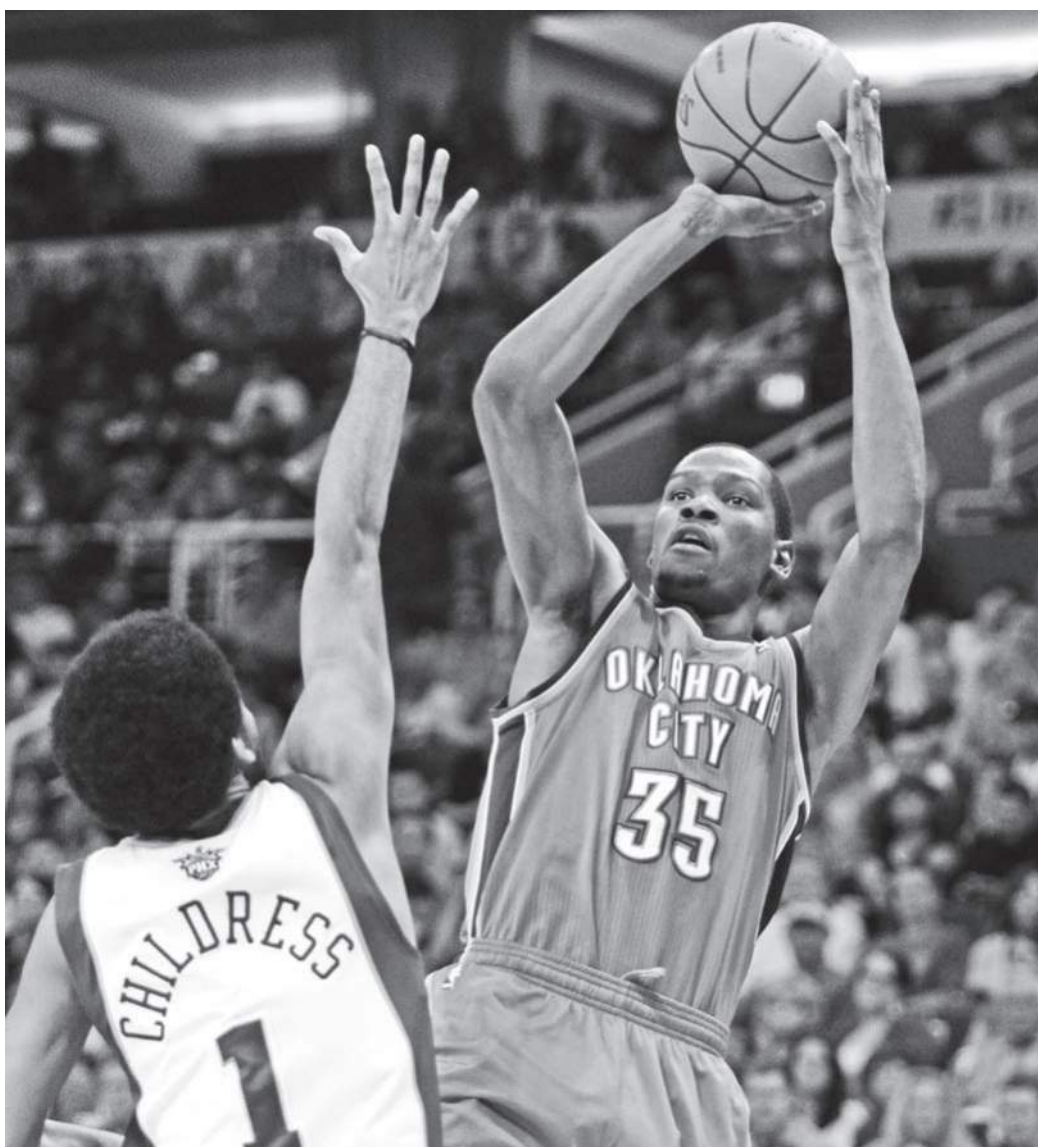
Earlier in the fourth, Nowitzki scored six points—four on free throws—in the Mavs' 13-1 run that produced their first double-digit lead of the game, 96-80. Nowitzki missed another free throw in the final minute.

Eric Gordon added 15 points for the Clippers, who've lost nine in a row and 15 of their last 16 to the Mavs. Dallas has won its last five road games against the Clippers.

Down by six with 7 seconds left, Gordon airballed a 3-point attempt.

The teams traded leads in a tight third quarter. With the Clippers leading by one, the Mavs outscored them 12-6 to lead 75-70 going into the fourth. Peja Stojakovic and Brian Cardinal hit 3-pointers in the spurt.

The Clippers blew a 13-point lead in the first, when Williams scored their first nine points. Dallas tied the game at 44-all late in the second and scored the



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots over Phoenix Suns forward Josh Childress during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 30, 2011, in Phoenix.

final two baskets to lead 48-46 at the break.

Nuggets 104, Kings 90

In Denver, Ty Lawson scored 20 points, J.R. Smith and Danilo Gallinari had 17 each and Denver won its fourth straight.

Al Harrington scored 15 and Nene had 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Nuggets, who increased their lead over Portland to 2 1/2 games for the fifth spot in the West. The Trail Blazers lost at New Orleans on Wednesday.

Marcus Thornton scored 27 and Tyreke Evans had 22 for the Kings.

The Kings led 57-49 early in the third when the Nuggets rallied to get even. A three-point play by Gallinari, a 3-pointer from Wilson Chandler and a jumper by Lawson tied it. Harrington's fast-break dunk midway through the period gave Denver a 59-57 lead, its first of the game.

The Nuggets lead the NBA in scoring at 107.7 points a game, but sputtered to start Wednesday. They were 1 for 6 from the field and the foul line and had just five points more than halfway through the first quarter and trailed by 11.

The Nuggets rallied behind their bench, which gave them a spark and got them within 32-31 early in the second quarter. Sacramento responded with a 15-5 run, capped by Thornton's fourth 3-pointer of the half, to stretch the lead to 47-36.

The Kings led 51-41 at halftime.

Bulls 108, Timberwolves 91

In Minneapolis, Derrick Rose had 23 points and 10 assists in three quarters to help Chicago remain 2 1/2 games ahead of Boston and Miami in the race for the top seed in the East.

Carlos Boozer had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Bulls, who recorded 31 assists on 41 field goals.

Kevin Love had 16 points and nine rebounds, but was limited to 27 minutes in his first game back from a strained left groin for the Timberwolves, who lost their eighth straight game.

Hawks 85, Magic 82

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson's floating one-hander in the lane put Atlanta ahead with 55.4 seconds remaining and Orlando's Jameer Nelson missed two chances to tie it.

Josh Smith led the Hawks with 26 points, and Johnson added 18. Nelson paced Orlando with 20 points, but he missed a jumper with 38 seconds left, then badly on a drive with 6 seconds left.

Jason Collins hit one free throw, giving the Magic one last chance to send the game to overtime, but Orlando managed a long 3-point attempt by Hedo Turkoglu (notes) that didn't come close.

Atlanta won its third in a row and took the season series 3-1.

76ers 108, Rockets 97

In Philadelphia, Jrue Holiday

had 24 points and 12 assists, and Thaddeus Young scored 22 points to lead Philadelphia.

Andre Iguodala had 10 assists, and Spencer Hawes and Jodie Meeks each scored 12 points for the 76ers, who can clinch a playoff spot with one more win or one more loss by Charlotte.

Kyle Lowry had 19 points, Kevin Martin had 18, Luis Scola 17 and Chase Budinger 15 for the Rockets, who came in trailing Memphis by two games for the final playoff berth in the West.

Hornets 95, Trail Blazers 91

In New Orleans, Carl Landry scored 21 points and New Orleans jumped ahead of Portland for sixth place in the Western Conference.

Chris Paul had 11 points and 12 assists, and Emeka Okafor had 15 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out with 1:38 left. Willie Green added 12 points, 10 in the fourth quarter.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 15 rebounds for Portland, which is tied with New Orleans in the standings but has lost the tiebreaker with the Hornets having won three of four meetings.

Andre Miller added 19 points for Portland.

Knicks 120, Nets 116

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 39 points for the second straight game, including the tie-breaking jumper with 1:08 left,

and New York rallied from a 16-point deficit.

Chauncey Billups added 33 points, six rebounds and six assists, and Amare Stoudemire scored 23 points for the Knicks, who have won two in a row after a six-game losing streak and trimmed their magic number for clinching a playoff spot to three.

Deron Williams had 22 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for New Jersey.

Grizzlies 110, Warriors 91

In Memphis, Tony Allen scored 21 points to help assure Memphis of its first winning season since 2005-06.

Allen added eight rebounds and four assists, and Mike Conley and Zach Randolph scored 20 apiece for the Grizzlies, who improved to 42-33. Conley also had seven assists, and Randolph had 13 rebounds and six assists.

Monta Ellis and Dorell Wright each had 16 points for Golden State.

Pacers 111, Pistons 101

In Indianapolis, Darren Collison scored 20 points, Danny Granger added 17 and Indiana used a 31-12 run in the second quarter to pull away.

Josh McRoberts added 15 points and Roy Hibbert 12 for the Pacers, who maintained their hold on the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference—one game ahead of Charlotte.

Rodney Stuckey led the Pistons with 24 points on 10-of-20 shooting. Richard Hamilton added 19, Tayshaun Prince and Greg Monroe 14 each and Chris Wilcox (notes) 10.

Bobcats 98, Cavaliers 97

In Charlotte, Boris Diaw scored 26 points and hit the tiebreaking free throw with 14 seconds left to lead Charlotte.

Diaw added 11 assists and seven rebounds, and Kwame Brown had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Bobcats, who won their fourth straight game to remain one game behind Indiana for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Ramon Sessions had 24 points and J.J. Hickson had 20 for Cleveland.

Bucks 104, Raptors 98

In Toronto, Brandon Jennings scored 25 points, and Andrew Bogut and Drew Gooden both had double-doubles for Milwaukee.

Gooden had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Bogut had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, who had lost three of their previous four games. Carlos Delfino (notes) added 14 points for Milwaukee, which is three games behind Indiana for the final playoff spot in the East.

Andrea Bargnani scored 22 points and DeMar DeRozan had 20 for the Raptors.

Report: Ex-Auburn players paid to play



MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—

Auburn will investigate claims by four former football players, who told HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" they received thousands of dollars while being recruited by or playing for the Tigers.

Stanley McClover, Troy Reddick, Chaz Ramsey and Raven Gray told HBO for an episode that aired Wednesday night that they received cash payments - in book bags, envelopes and even handshakes. Ramsey played at Auburn most recently, in the 2007 season.

Coach Gene Chizik dismissed the report as "pure garbage."

This Aug. 6, 2007 photo shows Auburn offensive lineman Chaz Ramsey during practice in Auburn, Ala. Four former Auburn players have told HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" that they received thousands of dollars while being recruited by or playing for the Tigers. Stanley McClover, Troy Reddick, Ramsey and Raven Gray made the allegations in an episode of the show airing Wednesday night March 30, 2011.



Chizik, Auburn's defensive coordinator from 2002-04 during the careers of McClover and Reddick, said Wednesday night he had no knowledge of the alleged payments, "and I don't have my head in the sand."

"What's disturbing to me is that they interviewed other former Auburn football players who had exactly the opposite to say but somehow or another that failed to make the air, unless I missed that section," Chizik said. "So I've got other former players that are calling me who are still playing and who are great players who had absolutely no knowledge of any of that stuff."

"So it saddens me that somebody is going to air a show with basically one side being known. I think that's pathetic. And I think it's pure garbage."

He said HBO did not attempt to contact him for comment.

Athletic director Jay Jacobs said the university will investigate.

"While HBO confirmed to us they have no proof that any of these claims are true, we contacted both the NCAA and Southeastern Conference as

soon as these allegations surfaced," Jacobs said in a statement released Wednesday night. "We have engaged outside counsel to investigate this matter and will spare no resources to find the truth."

University President Jay Gogue said he is confident Jacobs and his department "will investigate these allegations thoroughly and completely."

Tommy Tuberville, Auburn's coach during the recruitment of all four players, declined comment Wednesday. He is now the head coach at Texas Tech.

McClover said he "felt totally obligated" to play for the Tigers after getting money—he wasn't sure how much—in a book bag.

"I almost passed out. I literally almost passed out, I couldn't believe it was true," the former defensive end told HBO. "I felt like I owed them."

McClover said he later received \$7,000 from an unidentified Auburn booster for a 1973 Chevrolet Impala and would get sacks of money, typically \$300 or \$400, after games. He said he got four bags totaling \$4,000 after logging four sacks against rival Alabama in 2004, when he

was a first-team All-Southeastern Conference player.

The Associated Press reviewed an advance copy of the hour-long program. Efforts to reach the four former players were unsuccessful.

Auburn has been dealing with NCAA issues and allegations for months now, and Chizik once again finds himself defending his program.

"That's not what we stand for," he said. "That's not how this program is going to be run."

Chizik added, "I know in my heart of hearts that we're doing things the right way here at Auburn."

The NCAA has been investigating the recruitment of Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton, who led the Tigers to the 2010 national title in his lone season. Newton's father, Cecil, has admitted to soliciting money from Mississippi State during the recruiting process but said neither the player nor Auburn knew about his pay-for-play attempt.

Former Auburn defensive end Quentin Groves said he was never aware of McClover or any other teammates receiving improper payments.

Velarde says Bonds' trainer gave him injections



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

As prosecutors moved closer to finishing their case against Barry Bonds, former major league infielder Randy Velarde described meeting the slugger's personal trainer outside spring training ballparks for injections of human growth hormone.

Velarde said he sought out Greg Anderson because of his link to Bonds, and they met "in various parking lots."

"I can't remember each," Velarde said Wednesday during his 12 minutes of federal court testimony.

He wasn't sure exactly how many times he met Anderson. He was asked whether it was more than 10.

"That would be a fair number," he said.

And always, there would be an injection.

"Every meeting," he said.

Velarde became the fourth and likely final ball player to say he purchased performance-enhancing drugs from Anderson, who has been jailed for contempt after refusing to testify against Bonds, his childhood friend.

With Anderson unavailable, prosecutors called Jason Giambi, Jeremy Giambi, Marvin Benard and Velarde as witnesses to describe Anderson's drug-dealing - an attempt to show jurors Bonds must have known the substances he was receiving from Anderson were performance-enhancing drugs. None of the players had personal knowledge of any drug use by Bonds.

Three more players were among the 50 potential witnesses

on a list submitted to the court by prosecutors on March 7 - 1987 NL Rookie of the Year Benito Santiago, Armando Rios and Bobby Estalella - but Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew A. Parrella told U.S. District Judge Susan Illston on Wednesday that the government intended to call just three more witnesses.

His statement came as a surprise. Prosecutors said in the March 7 filing that Estalella would testify Bonds admitted to him that he used performance-enhancing drugs and they had several discussions about the subject.

Parrella said his final three witnesses would be Bonds' physician Dr. Arthur Ting, Bonds' former personal shopper Kathy Hoskins and former UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory head Dr. Don Catlin. After that, the defense can start calling its witnesses.

Benard finished testifying Wednesday morning and was followed by Velarde. Then came a current IRS special agent and a former one, along with six of the people who worked at the UCLA lab as it processed Bonds' 2003 drug test. Giving often tedious testimony, the eight established the chain of evidence for the jury of Bonds' urine from the time federal agents seized it from Quest Diagnostics in April 2004 until the time it tested positive for the steroid Tetrahydrogestrinone (TGH) in March 2006.

After just five witnesses appeared in the first four days of testimony, the trial's pace has increased. Five witnesses finished their testimony on Tuesday and 10 more completed their ques-

tioning on Wednesday.

With prosecutors planning to read portions of Bonds' grand jury testimony to the jury, the government's presentation is likely to wrap up by early next week. Thursday's session will be cut short because Illston will leave to attend the swearing in of a judge late in the day. After that, the trial resumes Monday.

Bonds, baseball's season and career home run king, is charged with four counts of lying and one count of obstruction for telling a grand jury in 2003 that he didn't knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs. Wearing a blue suit and blue tie, he took notes and conferred with lead lawyer Allen Ruby during a day filled with science, such as explanations of how an isotope-ratio mass spectrometer works and the difference between carbon-12 and carbon-13.

"I think we are all feeling a little obtuse right now," Illston said late in the day.

Velarde played mostly for the New York Yankees but also for the Angels and Athletics in a major league career from 1987-02. He met Anderson in 2001 through Estalella, who split that year between Bonds' Giants and the Yankees.

"He mentioned to me he could get some stuff through Greg and gave me his name and number," Velarde said.

Anderson at first sent Velarde some pills, but the player felt they weren't benefiting him.

He then switched to injections and said after them he felt he had more endurance and strength. He paid Anderson \$500 to \$800.

Opening day forecast: High hopes, with rain and snow

NEW YORK (AP)—Grab the parka, ski cap, mittens and galoshes. It's time for baseball.

From Dodger Stadium to Yankee Stadium, there was a flurry of activity as teams got ready for opening day. At Great American Ball Park, meanwhile, actual flurries.

Ryan Braun, Prince Fielder and the Milwaukee Brewers worked out as snow flakes fell Wednesday, a day before they were to play Cincinnati. The conditions were better suited for snowballs than baseballs, too, when the Reds later took the field.

"I love it. I love the weather," Reds second baseman Brandon Phillips deadpanned. "The weather is beautiful."

The forecast for the six openers Thursday wasn't much better, either. Rain with temperatures in the 40s in Washington, New York and Kansas City, downright chilly in Cincinnati.

"If you're playing golf and it's 33 and windy, you take it into the clubhouse and play cards. Unfortunately we have to keep playing," Yankees star Mark Teixeira said, set to face Detroit in the Bronx's first March game. "It's not easy playing in the cold but the good thing is both teams have to do it."

Said Tigers catcher Alex Avila: "It's going to be perfect weather, 40s and rain. A good day to pitch."

At Nationals Park, Washington players came out to practice in red-hooded sweat shirts. Their workout ended in the rain

when the grounds crew pulled out the tarp, and no telling if it'll be any better for Thursday's game against Atlanta.

"We'll show up ready to play. And if we don't, we'll play Friday. We have that off-day leeway, so that's smart," Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman said. "We knew it was going to be a little chilly - coming from Florida, we won't be used to it. But we'll be so excited to play, I don't think it'll matter."

Sure is a change from last year. There wasn't a single rainout or snowout for more than 2 1/2 weeks, the longest any season had gone from the start without a weather postponement in 25 years.

Either way, quite a change from the sunny spring training fields in Arizona and Florida.

"We came in from like 90 degrees. We flew back last night and there's snow today. It's kind of different," said Edinson Volquez, the opening day starter for Cincinnati.

Leave it to LA to provide the perfect setting. Two-time Cy Young winner Tim Lincecum, Rookie of the Year Buster Posey and the World Series champion San Francisco Giants open at Dodger Stadium, where it's supposed to be sunny and near 80 degrees.

Plus the Giants-Dodgers rivalry, right from the get-go.

"It's going to be a little fire," Giants center fielder Andres Torres said. "That's part of it."

So are familiar faces in new places. Angels outfielder

Vernon Wells, Tigers slugger Victor Martinez, Nationals outfielder Jayson Werth and Braves second baseman Dan Uggla are among the stars set to make their debuts.

Old pros Chipper Jones, back from a knee injury that almost finished his career, and Derek Jeter, coming off a down year, also get fresh starts.

"There's a twinkle in his eye, there's something there," new Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez said about Jones. "Maybe it's getting a taste of the playoffs and a chance we can do it again this year."

Also part of the scene: Mike Mussina and Jim Edmonds, throwing out ceremonial first balls. Mussina will do it at Yankee Stadium, Edmonds gets the honor in St. Louis before the Cardinals host San Diego.

At Kauffman Stadium, where the Royals host the Los Angeles Angels, and other ballparks there will be a collection for the relief efforts in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami.

Stadium workers in Kansas City bunched up against the cold as they got logos, banners and signs ready for the opener. Despite the daunting forecasts, there's always a lot of anticipation.

"Even after all these years, there are still butterflies. Heck, yeah," Reds manager Dusty Baker said. "No matter how long you do this. If you still have the same joy as you did as a kid, you remember the opening day Little League parade. I do. It's the best game."

Lizama leads batting race in Juniors

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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RPEPORTER



BTS Survivors' Jeffrey Lizama is currently the frontrunner

in the batting race in the Junior League division of the 2011 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Survivors slugger has 121 hits in 21 at bats for a .571 batting average.

The Lions' Cedric Ada, Jets' KJ Kalen, Survivors' Phillip Sablan, Red Sox's Jerald Cabrera, Ol'Aces Kenji Yamagata, Survivors' Esiah Cruz, IT&E Fielders' Ian Rogolifoi, Jets' Nathan Sablan, Lions' Jireh Yobech, Survivors' Jeremy Lizama, IT&E's Keene Guerrero, and Red Sox's Jonathan Cabrera rounded out the Top 13.

Jeffrey Lizama's 10 RBIs leads the league. He has also crossed the plate a league leading 13 times. Jose Lizama (12) and Jerald Cabrera (11) are currently ranked in second and third, respectively. Jeffrey Lizama also leads the field in doubles with three; four other players have two.

Rogolifoi is clearly the power hitter of the bunch with three triples and a home run.

Batting statistics were based on 16 at bats or more.

The Lizama duo also co-leads the Earned Run Average category. They both have allowed two earned runs in 17 innings pitched for an 0.82 ERA. IT&E's Guerrero (3ER/14IP/1.50ERA) and Falcons' Frankie Lieto (6ER/27IP/1.61ERA) are close



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
BTS Survivors' Jeffrey Lizama swings during their Sunday's game against the Natibu Falcons in the Junior League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

on their trail.

Lieto is the current strikeout leader with 36, just ahead of Lions' Justin Reyes (34) with Aces' Mike Muna (29), Jose Lizama (27) and Guerrero (26) still in the mix.

Pitching statistics were based on at least 14 innings pitched.

Senior League leaders

In the Senior League, IT&E Fielders' Peter Lieto is the current batting leader with eight hits in 17 at bats for a .470 average.

Ol'Aces' Frankie Camacho, Aces' AJ Lizama, Jets' Brian Camacho, Lions' Ricardo Dela Cruz, Lions' Leroy Regis, Lions' Tim DLGuerrero, IT&E's Alan Aguon, Lions' Lemarc Iguel, Heats' Vincent Cabrera, IT&E's Carl Camacho, IT&E's

Poland Masaharu, Hunters' Robert Tudela, Hunters' Joseph Atalig, and Lions' Arthur Jebehn rounded out the Top 15.

Deleon Guerrero's seven RBIs lead the league with Carl Camacho (5) on the chase. Deleon Guerrero has also touched home a league leading 13 times ahead of teammates Dela Cruz (11) and Jebehn (10).

Dela Cruz has belted the most triples with three, while Vincent Cabrera, Brian Camacho and Lieto all tied for second with two each. Five Senior Leaguers have been credited with two doubles apiece. Batting statistics were based on at least 12 at bats.

Carl Camacho currently holds ERA honors with four earned runs in 22 innings pitched for

a 1.27ERA. Hunters' Joseph Atalig (5ER/24.2IP/1.40ERA) and the Lions' Regis (6ER/25IP/1.68ERA) are in second and third, respectively.

Regis has accrued 37 strikeouts, but Atalig (33) is gaining ground. Carl Camacho is in third place (24).

General meeting Sunday

Meanwhile, SLLB acting president Claudia Leon-Guerrero has announced that a membership

meeting is set for this Sunday at 5pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Topics to be discussed include team entrance fees, team documents, the league financial report, and other miscellaneous matters. All active members are encouraged to attend.

In related news, the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield has been undergoing construction since February 14 and completion of the repairs is expected on April 29.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has an active 75-day contract to revamp the Little League fences, not including the back fence. The dugout fence was installed on Tuesday, however Leon Guerrero is still awaiting the green light to use the field for the Majors division games.

For the re-scheduling of cancelled games, SLLB is looking into squeezing some on weekdays. More details will be released later.

Survivors, Fielders prevail in Junior League

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The BTS Survivors and IT&E Fielders clinched separate wins in last weekend's Junior League games in the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Survivors jumped on an early 7-2 lead in the second inning and held on to down the Natibu Sports Association Falcons, 11-7, on Sunday, while IT&E defeated the Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets, 10-3, on Saturday.

Survivors 11, Falcons 7

The visiting Falcons managed an early 2-0 lead in the top of the opening frame. Darion Jones knocked in Alfonso Evangelista and the other run came off a wild pitch.

Then the Survivors gashed a seven-run tear in the bottom of the second inning. Jared Ayuyu belted an RBI single as his team loaded the bases.

The next two runs came in off a bean ball, a fielder's choice, errors, and a walk. Then Fermin Renguul grounded in the final run before Falcons got out of dodge.

Falcons got one run back in the top of the third off an RBI single by Jones, but they left the bases loaded.

Then Survivors went ahead, 9-3, in the bottom frame off a two-RBI single by Jose Lizama. Survivors drew three free passes in the frame.

Falcons managed a run in the top half of the fourth off a wild pitch and trimmed the deficit to two, 7-9, in the top of the fifth off a freebie walk with the bases loaded and after an RBI single by Evangelista.

Then after a quiet inning and a half, Survivors' Caleb Takao hammered an in the park two-run homer and his team held on to close the last three outs.

Survivors' Jeffrey Lizama batted 3-for-4 with two runs and two stolen bases.

IT&E Fielders 10, Jets 3

The Jets struck first in the top of the opening frame with a run off an error and went ahead, 3-0, in the top of the second off a two-RBI single by Kenta Castro, but IT&E Fielders bit back and took the lead, 4-3, in the bottom frame.

Peter Lieto ripped a two-RBI single and Poland Masaharu followed with an RBI base knock before coming home off an error.

From that point, the Jets managed only one hit in the remainder of the game and left four runners stranded, while IT&E added a run in the third and two each in the fourth and fifth inning. The last five runs all came off errors.

Winning pitcher Jared Lizama went the distance and allowed two earned runs off six hits and two walks with four strikeouts. Masaharu batted 3-for-3 with an RBI, two runs, two stolen bases, and a hit-by-pitch.

Home Boyz eludes Shark Attack

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Jonny's Bar & Grill's Home Boyz shut out Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark

Attack, 7-0, at home on Tuesday and is now tied with sister team IT&E Voyagers for the Agingan Division lead in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball.

The Agingan co-leaders hold similar 25-10 records. IT&E Incridibles (24-11) of Buddies Bar & Grill and Utopia Bar's Docomo Hustlers (21-14) are close behind in third and fourth place, respectively.

USSP Peleliu Club's Fotten Palau still leads the pack in the six-team Obyan Division after defeating X-Tream, 4-3, on the road at VFW Post 3457.

Fotten Palau has a record of 19 wins and 16 losses, while D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Best Choice and X-Tream are knotted in second place with identical cards of 14 wins and 21 defeats.

Despite a 4-3 road victory over the Docomo Hustlers,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Best Choice, seen here in a photo at USSP Peleliu Club, schooled sister team Pirates, 6-1, in a home game as the SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League season continued on Tuesday.

IT&E Voyagers must settle for now for a tie for the lead in the Agingan Division.

Other matchup results include Best Choice downing sister team Pirates (9-26), 6-1, in a home game and the IT&E Incridibles brushing off the Turtles (11-24), 6-1, in a road pairing at USSP.

Agingan notables include Home Boyz's Mario Diola sink- ing the eight ball in his match

up, and IT&E Incridibles' Chester Hamoy and IT&E Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva having run the table twice apiece.

Obyan notables include Shark Attack's Nong Detdon, the only player to sink the 8-Ball off the break, and one-time rack runners Tero Takai of Best Choice, Fotten Palau's John Mongami, Turtles' Patrick Cepeda, and X-Tream players Chester Cuento and Bobby Lozano.

Snipers, Ali'i Kamote on top of SEDA league

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Ali'i Kamote's Jonny's Bar & Grill and Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Sniper Destroyers kept the lead in their respective divisions in the Saipan Electronic Dart League.

The Snipers edged out the M-Destroyers, 9-8, on the road at D'Pirates Bar & Grill last week and now hold an overall record of 58 wins and 27 losses to lead the Tuesday B division. M-Destroyers Eric Durano scored a 160 High-In in the matchup.

Buddies' Bar & Grill's Black Stallions (53-32) and the M-Destroyers (40-45) are ranked second and third in the seven-team division.

Ali'i Kamote's took down second ranked Buddies' Salbahe (56-34), 10-5, at home last Tuesday and are pulling away from the pack in the Masters standings with 73 wins and just 17 losses.

Kamote's Peejay Naval scored a 160 High-In, while Salbahe's George Medina had a 127 High-Out. Oleai's Matua's (48-42) is currently in third



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Snipers, seen here posing for a group photo, edged out the M-Destroyers, 9-8, at D'Pirates Bar & Grill in last week's SEDA Masters division matchup.

place in the eight-team field.

Notably, Kamote's Eric Pascual and Kaysie Aquino are ranked first and second in the individual statistics. Pascual is scoring 21.77 points per dart and 3.33 per round for a weighted average of 58.34, just ahead of teammate Aquino 1.18PPD/3.18MPR/56.34WA).

Other Master results include last-ranked Buddies' Flying Dartsmen (41-61) knocking off Jonny's Elite (38-47), 9-8, in 15 games at home and the Black

Stallions finishing strong and taking the last three games to pass the PIC Shooters (37-48) at Round Bar.

Other Tuesday B results include last-ranked D'Pirates Duruzi (26-64) outlasting No. 7 Jonny's Samurai (31-59), 8-7, in a back and forth battle at home; Buddies' Black Pearls (40-50) upsetting Oleai's GCC Carpenters (41-49), 8-7, at home; and D'Pirates Mixed Blood Shooters (45-45) defeating Matua's, 10-5, on the road.

Hard-punching Manny impresses Arum

BAGUIO CITY—Manny Pacquiao’s right hook exploded on Freddie Roach’s mitts with such impact that Bob Arum, watching intently at ringside, involuntarily blinked.

Then the venerable promoter smiled, satisfied with what he saw at the Shape-Up Gym of the Cooyeesan Hotel here yesterday.

Though Pacquiao is just into the seventh day of his preparation for Shane Mosley, Arum declared: “He can fight next week probably.”

The Filipino superstar won’t be dangling his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown against Mosley until May



Pacquiao

7 at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Arum, who minced no words criticizing Pacquiao early in his training camp for Antonio Margarito last year, was simply impressed by his fighter’s display of ring savvy

and skill in yesterday’s well-attended media day.

“He looks incredible,” said Arum. “It’s amazing that this early he looks terrific. Fantastic.”

The 79-year-old Arum, already enshrined in boxing’s Hall of Fame, said Pacquiao

has all the reason to be energetic during the intense two-hour, 30-minute workout witnessed by Team Pacquiao members and supporters like Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson.

“[Pacquiao] is relaxed, happy, enjoying everything,” said Arum. “I’m impressed with what Freddie has done in so short a time.”

Arum’s analytical eyes also noticed something different in Pacquiao’s fighting stance.

“The right hand,” said Arum, “It will tell the story of his fight against Mosley.”

Arum, who flew in here with Singson after arriving in Manila from Las Vegas yesterday morning, said that Pacquiao’s left is already known as his power hand, but it will

be his right that Mosley should watch out for.

Arum will also visit Mosley’s training camp at Big Bear, California.

Early reports indicated that the three-time world champion is also working extremely hard in a bid to give Pacquiao a tough fight. **(PDI)**

SETTSU

From Page 36

clubs nationwide have collectively donated over \$500,000 to Japan’s tsunami relief since March 25.

The BANMI aid came from admission ticket sales and other donations during the three-day tournament. The caging featured Settsu Red Impulse’s girls and boys teams, the MISO-All Stars, the MHS Lady Dolphins, Kagman High School, and COPSSA All-Stars. The Ayuyus won the boys division against the MISO All-Stars, while the Lady Dolphins topped Settsu in the girls finals.

Before the championship games on Tuesday, Saipan

players offered gift packages to their friends from Osaka, Japan. The hosts handed out hand-carved wooden key chains, shell necklaces, and CNMI quarter display cases in Star Sands gift bags.

Then during the awards ceremony, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and Department of Cultural and Community Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao were present to assist with the distribution of awards.

The pair thanked Settsu for their third visit and expressed hopes to continue the event in the succeeding years. They also offered their deepest condolences to the group after a tsunami and earthquakes hit Settsu players’ countrymen last month.

HEO

From Page 36

run from May 11 to 15.

Heo delivered one victory for HPU against Grand Canyon. The CNMI netter survived Ahmad Saleem in three sets, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, before he and new doubles partner Ari Davis lost to Stepane Murray and Frederic Schoelzel, 3-8.

After the win over Grand Canyon on March 26, Heo returned to the court in Waipahu three days later and helped HPU dominate Idaho College, 7-2. Heo teamed up with Davis anew against Idaho and the pair topped Thomas McMahon and

Mark Malmstrom, 8-2.

Heo and company won their last three home games, as they also prevailed over Air Force Academy on March 21, 5-2. Against Air Force, Heo defeated Andy Jackson in straight sets, 7-6, 6-2, but the CNMI netter and Davis bowed to Lance Wilhelm and Andy Jackson in the first doubles game, 8-6.

The home game sweep redeemed Heo and HPU from a 0-6 road record from March 12 to 17. The Sea Warriors lost to No. 31 University of California-San Diego, 3-6, and No. 1 Barry, 1-8, in San Diego and also dropped their four games in Las Vegas against No. 8 West Florida, No. 3 Armstrong

Atlantic, No. 10 Corcordia, and Fresno Pacific.

“I was disappointed with my performance in San Diego and Las Vegas because I hurt my back. Before I left, I had a groin injury after we played Loyola Marymount and I had to rest for a week. Once I got to San Diego, I couldn’t serve very well because of my back. My back is still bad but I am in therapy now so I could be good by the time we go to the Nationals,” Heo said.

“It was a good feeling to clinch the win against Grand Canyon last Saturday. My back wasn’t holding up too well. During the third set, I was also cramping up but at

4-4, I pulled it out by playing serve and volley,” the 19-year-old freshman added.

Though they lost their last six road games, Heo said every match was worth it, as they faced tough teams.

“In Las Vegas and San Diego, we played many Top 10 teams, including former Nationals champions Armstrong and Barry. They are good and play with a lot of intensity, but they are beatable,” Heo said.

Heading into the Nationals, Heo holds a 10-5 singles record and 8-8 in doubles.

“We have a month now to train and we’ll try to make the most of it and be ready for the Nationals in May,” Heo added.

MATANSA

From Page 36

leads the league in the most goals scored so far with four, while Camacho has earned three.

In the other girls U15 game, MP United and Paire had a scoreless draw, keeping the latter in the second spot with its 1-1-1 mark. MP United owns a 0-3-0 slate for third place.

BOYS U15 MP United 2, Tan Holdings 0

In the boys U15, MP United

cruised to its third win in as many matches after beating Tan Holdings at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, 2-0.

Jake Lee and Jehn Joyner delivered one goal each for the league-leading team, bringing the latter’s total to five—the most so far this season, tying Matansa’s Sean Perez for the lead.

The loss was Tan Holdings’ first in two games.

Matansa 4, Paire 1

Perez knocked in two more goals in Matansa’s 4-1 triumph over Paire in the other boys U15 game.

Also scoring twin goals for Matansa was David Jones Bu-

cayo. Paire’s lone goal came from a player wearing jersey No. 25.

Paire dropped to a 0-0-2 record to stay at the bottom of the team standings.

Shirley’s Football Club drew a bye last week and will resume play this Saturday against MP United at 4:30pm. At 3pm, Tan Holdings will take on Paire.

BOYS U18 MP United 4, Independents 1

MP United also holds the lead in the boys U18 division, improving to a 3-0-0 mark after thumping Independents, 4-1.

3-for-5 with four runs.

Last Friday, the Angels hit the board first with a run off an error in the bottom of the third inning.

However, the Aces shot ahead, 6-1, in the top of the fourth off a two-RBI single by Dennis Cruz, a pair of runs off errors, and another two-RBI base rip by Nunu Kapileo.

The Angels came up empty in the bottom frame, and the Aces added a run off an RBI liner up the middle by Eric Lizama in the top of the fifth.

Then both teams cooled off at the plate until the Angels managed a pair of runs in the bottom of the eighth off an RBI single

Diego Yoon scored two goals for MP United, while Chris Park and Hong Moon Bin contributed one apiece. IFC’s only goal in the game came from player No. 9. Independents is winless in three games.

Paire 2, Matansa 1

In the other U18 match, Paire edged Matansa, 2-1.


Paire now has a 2-0-1 record for second place, while Matansa absorbed its second loss in three matches.

Lin Zhi Peng and Terence Lane logged one goal each for Paire, while Antonio Bornilla was the lone scorer for Matansa.

by Marvin Kaipat. He later scored off an error, shortly after two Angels’ runners got caught in the base paths.

Then the Aces’ Shane Yamada grounded in an insurance run in the top of the ninth and teammate Kapileo took the mound to close the game for starter Jacob Babauta. Kapileo and the Aces’ defense stuffed the Angels, 1-2-3, in their final stand.

Babauta contained the Angels to just one earned run in eight innings off seven hits, two walks, and a couple bean balls with 10 strikeouts. Yamada batted 2-for-2 with an RBI, two runs, two stolen bases, and a hit-by-pitch.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	51	22	.699	—
Philadelphia	39	36	.520	13
New York	37	38	.493	15
New Jersey	23	51	.311	28 1/2
Toronto	20	54	.270	31 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	52	23	.693	—
x-Orlando	47	28	.627	5
x-Atlanta	43	32	.573	9
Charlotte	32	42	.432	19 1/2
Washington	18	56	.243	33 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	54	20	.730	—
Indiana	34	42	.447	21
Milwaukee	30	44	.405	24
Detroit	26	48	.351	28
Cleveland	15	59	.203	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	17	.770	—
x-Dallas	53	21	.716	4
New Orleans	43	32	.573	14 1/2
Memphis	42	33	.560	15 1/2
Houston	39	36	.520	18 1/2

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	50	24	.676	—
Denver	45	29	.608	5
Portland	43	32	.573	7 1/2
Utah	36	39	.480	14 1/2
Minnesota	17	58	.227	33 1/2

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	53	20	.726	—
Phoenix	36	38	.486	17 1/2
Golden State	32	44	.421	22 1/2
L.A. Clippers	29	46	.387	25
Sacramento	21	53	.284	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Nowitzki, DAL

Martin, HOU

Howard, ORL

Griffin, LAC

Westbrook, OKC

Aldridge, POR

Bargnani, TOR

Granger, IND

Williams, NJN

Love, MIN

Randolph, MEM

Lopez, NJN

FG Percentage

Hilario, DEN

Howard, ORL

Okafor, NOR

A. Johnson, TOR

Horford, ATL

Gortat, PHX

Isaka, OKC

McGee, WAS

Young, PHL

Odum, LAL

Rebounds

Love, MIN

Howard, ORL

Randolph, MEM

Griffin, LAC

Humphries, NJN

Gasol, LAL

Okafor, NOR

Jefferson, UTA

Lee, GOL

Horford, ATL

Assists

Nash, PHX

Rondo, BOS

Williams, NJN

Paul, NOR

Calderon, TOR

Felton, DEN

Wall, WAS

Kidd, DAL

Westbrook, OKC

Rose, CHI

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244

65

205

198

170

795

689

726

716

596

585

532

620

614

577

11.4

11.3

10.1

9.8

8.9

8.6

8.4

8.3

7.9

Ganacias, Matsumoto win Fil-Taga March Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Leo Ganacias and John Matsumoto claimed the Fil-Taga March Ace titles after prevailing in a tournament at the Marianas County Club on Saturday.

Ganacias took the Division A plum after posting a net 70 and beating 12 other Fil-Taga members. The 13-handicapper Ganacias shot a 43 on the front nine and played better on the back with his 40 for a gross 83.

He beat Gil Faller in the tiebreak on the front nine. Faller, an 11-handicapper, also shot a gross 43 on the front, but ended up with net 37.5 against Ganacias' 36.5. Faller had

a better back nine score than Ganacias with the former drilling a 38 for a gross 81. Rounding out the Top 3 in Division A was Ronnie

Santos, who carded a net 71. The 13-handicapper nailed a 42 on both nines for a gross 84.

Other participants in Division A with their net scores in parenthesis were Matutino Adony (75), Lito Mendoza (75), Mando Guban (77), Larry Pascual (77), Jacinto Ramones (77), Vic Romana (79), Rene Batallones (80), Freddie Cataluna (81), Rick Kautz (83), and Nestor Siruelo (83).



Matsumoto

In Division B, Matsumoto bested eight other golfers after carding a net 74. The 23-handicapper shot a gross 97 for a one-shot lead over Ted Malaran. The 19-handicapper Malaran posted a gross 94 at the Marpi course for a net 75. Completing the Top 3 was Ernie Lopez, who tallied a net 76 after deducting his 24 handicap from his gross score of 100.

Finishing fourth was Manny Po (net 77), followed by Mike Cruz (78), Sandy Palon (78), Dan Ganacias (83), Paul Bea (87), and Nono Bostre (97).

The Fil-Taga March Ace tournament was held simultaneously with the Father Manny Memorial Golf Classic and scores of members who joined the fundraiser were considered for the selection of the monthly winners.

MMAC golf tournament tomorrow



The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer golf tournament—hosted by the Transportation Security Administration will be held tomorrow at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

Showtime is at 6:30am, while tee off is at 7:30am. Registration fee is \$100.

"The 2011 MMAC committee is extremely grateful for the support we've received from the

staff and management of the TSA. Their untiring support in the battle against cancer is deeply appreciated by all," 2011 MMAC public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion said.

"We'd like to invite all avid golfers and those who are interested in the sport to join the TSA and MMAC organizers this Saturday for a fun round of golf. TSA has managed to secure great hole-in-one prizes including a Mazda 2 courtesy of Triple J Motors. Other

prizes will also be awarded at the banquet following the tournament. All funds raised at this event will be donated to the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer so the entire community is encouraged to show their support in the fight against cancer," said Concepcion.

TSA has announced there will be "closest to the pin" award as well as cash prizes of up to \$500 for lucky winners.

For more information on the 2011 MMAC golf tournament, contact Betty Kosam at 285-4071 or Sia Dela Cruz at 285-4070. (PR)

Meek and Mighty Swim Saturday



The Saipan Swim Club will be holding the 6th Annual Meek

and Mighty Ocean Swim tomorrow in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

The race will start at 8am and registration will begin at 7am. Registration fee is only \$10 and each participant will get one free PIC water park pass. The race will have three divisions: meek (one-kilometer), tweener (3K), and mighty (5K). Participants wearing wetsuits or fins must join the tweener division.

Results of last year's swim showed Andres Buitrago topping the longest race of the day with his time of 1:00:19, which surpassed the 1:02:00 Cooper Graf logged in 2009. Andrew Kimball came in at second, (1:08:24) followed by his sibling, Grace Kimball (1:10:22), Gary De Guzman (1:14:38), and Carol Lynn Pierce (1:15:26).

In the 3K race, father and son Kieran and Bryce Daly finished in the Top 2. The older Daly clocked in at 43 minutes and .09 seconds against Bryce's 43:10 in the tweener division. Kento Akimaru completed the Top 3 of the 3K race after submitting 43.38.

In the shortest race, the Top 3 placers were Lennosuke Suzuki (17:31), Taiga Sato (17:41), and John Douglas (18:45).

To register or for more information about tomorrow's race, contact SSC's Lisa Kimball at coach@saipanswimclub.com (RBM)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A participant in last year's SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim carries his fins after completing the one-kilometer race in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

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Thunder hit franchise best monthly record

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Lizama leads batting race in Juniors

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Heo heading to NCAA Nationals



Ji Hoon Heo makes a return during a home game with Hawaii Pacific University last week.

SEAWARRIOS.COM

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI No. 1 junior player Ji Hoon Heo and his Hawaii Pacific University Sea Warriors are going to the 2011 NCAA National Championship next month in Florida after a pivotal home win last weekend.

"It is likely we will make it to the Nationals because we beat Grand Canyon University. As of now, we're just waiting for confirmation from NCAA," Heo said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The game against Grand

Canyon was the second to the last match HPU played at home this season with the Sea Warriors prevailing, 5-4. HPU nailed three singles wins and two in doubles to beat the visiting team and punch a ticket to the Nationals, which will

See HEO on Page 34



St. Michael Angels bounce back



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

St. Michael Angels' Jerome Delos Santos cranks a triple during their SML game against the Tan Holding's Brewers on Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The St. Michaels' Medical Response Angels defeated the Tan Holdings Brewers, 6-1, to recover from a 3-8 loss to the Ol' Aces, as the first round of the regular season of Saipan Major League concluded on Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Angels improved to a 3-1 record. The Aces evened their card to 2-2, while the Brewers hold a 2-3 slate.

The second round of the SML regular season continues tonight with the Shell Fielders (3-2) squaring off against the Masters (1-3) at 6:30pm.

In the Wednesday game, the Angels struck first with a run in the top of the first inning off an error, and forced the Brewers to go 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

Then the Angels went ahead, See ST. MICHAEL on Page 34

Matansa stays unbeaten in girls U15

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club kept its undefeated record in three games in the girls U15 division of the 2011 NMIFA Youth Spring League after shutting out Tan Holdings FC, 4-0, on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

With the win and its 2-1-0

win-draw-loss slate, Matansa stayed on top of the four-team field, while Tan Holdings remained at the bottom of the girls U15 division with its 0-1-1 card.

Matansa's Tahlia Hideo had a hat-trick against Tan Holdings, while Andrea Camacho drilled the other goal for the winning team. Hideo now

See MATANSA on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa player kicks the ball against a Tan Holdings defender during their girls U15 game in the NMIFA youth spring league on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Settsu-Saipan caging proceeds donated to Japan

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The \$633.66 proceeds from Basketball Association of the Northern Marianas Islands-organized 3rd Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Invitational was donated to Rotary Japan Disaster

Recovery Fund.

The donation turnover ceremony was done during the awards ceremony for the tournament on Tuesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Rotary Club of Saipan president Glen Perez

received the donation from BANMI's Gabriel White. Also present at the turnover ceremony was BANMI secretary general Michael White.

After accepting the check, Perez noted that Rotary

See SETTSU on Page 34



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

After accepting BANMI's donation from Gabriel White, far right, Rotary Club of Saipan president Glen Perez, center, receives a gift from Settsu Red Impulse head coach Yoshihiro Kinoshita during the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament awards ceremony at the Marianas High School Gym on Tuesday night.